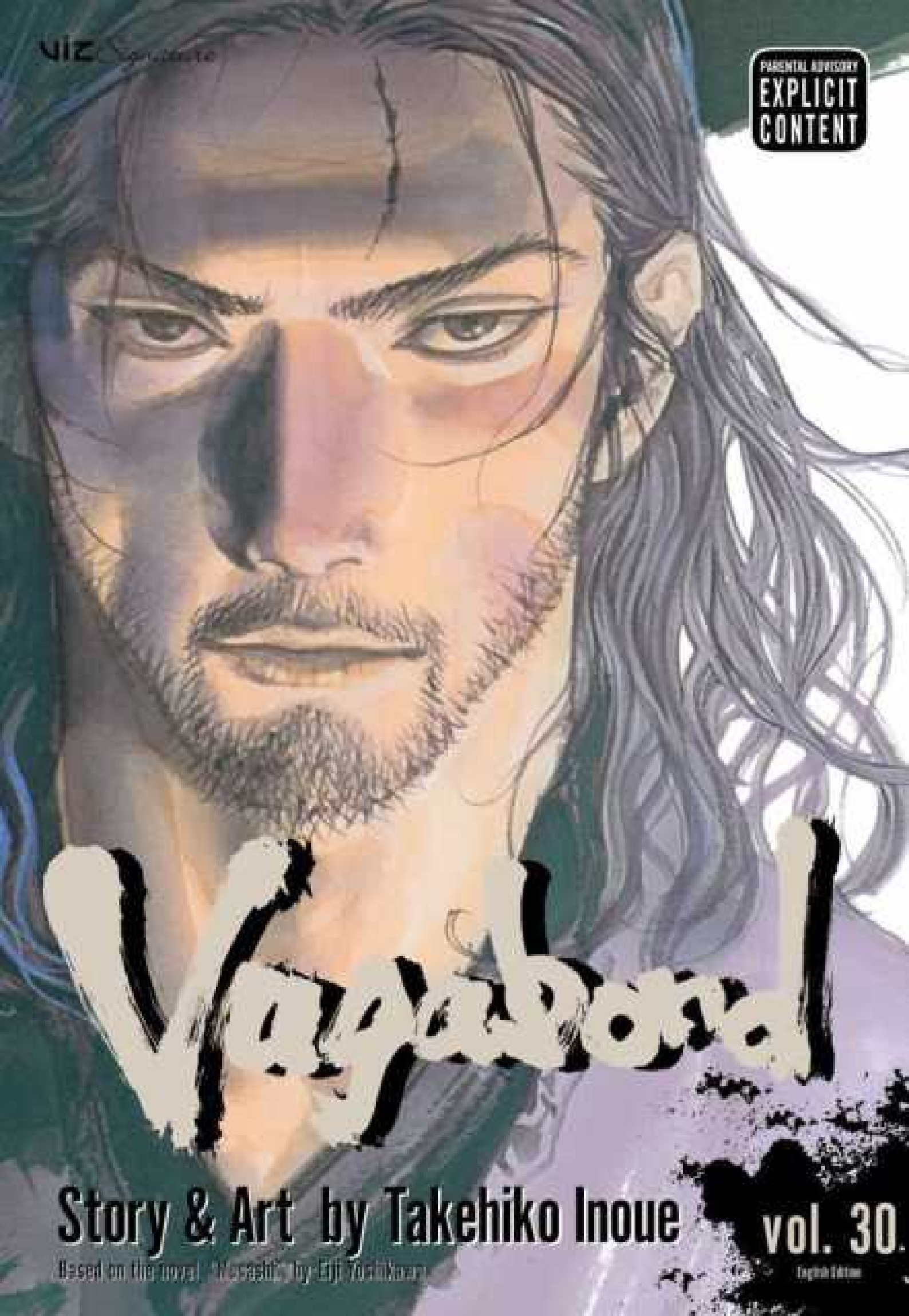
viz
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT
Vagabond
Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue
Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa
vol. 30
English Edition

モーニング
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バガボンド
30
井上雄彦
原作 吉川英治「宮本武蔵」より
Vagabond by
InoueTakehiko
井上雄彦
30
バガボンド
原作 吉川英治
「宮本武蔵」より
MORNING KC
講談社
右足に深く残る疼痛。
命のやりとりから遠ざけられ、
行く末は暗澹として見えない——。
来し方を振り返り武蔵は思う。
かつての感覚を取り戻したい。
すべてがひとつながりであった、あの頃へ——。
"VAGABOND" VOLUME 30.

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雑誌 42668-95

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1929979005337

モーニングKC 講談社 定価：本体533円(税別)

VAGABOND BY INOUE TAKEHIKO

たとえば目指す場所に誰かの足跡があったとしても
自分の足で道を探すこと
そのことにワクワクしたい

井上雄彦

Cover Illustrations by Inoue Takehiko
Designed by Teruhisa Tajima for Thesedays
Published 2009 in Japan by Kodansha, Ltd. "Morning"
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Vagabond by Inoue Takehiko

Based on the novel by Eiji Yoshikawa "Miyamoto Musashi"

volume 30

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VAGABOND BY INOUE TAKEHIKO

バガボンド 30

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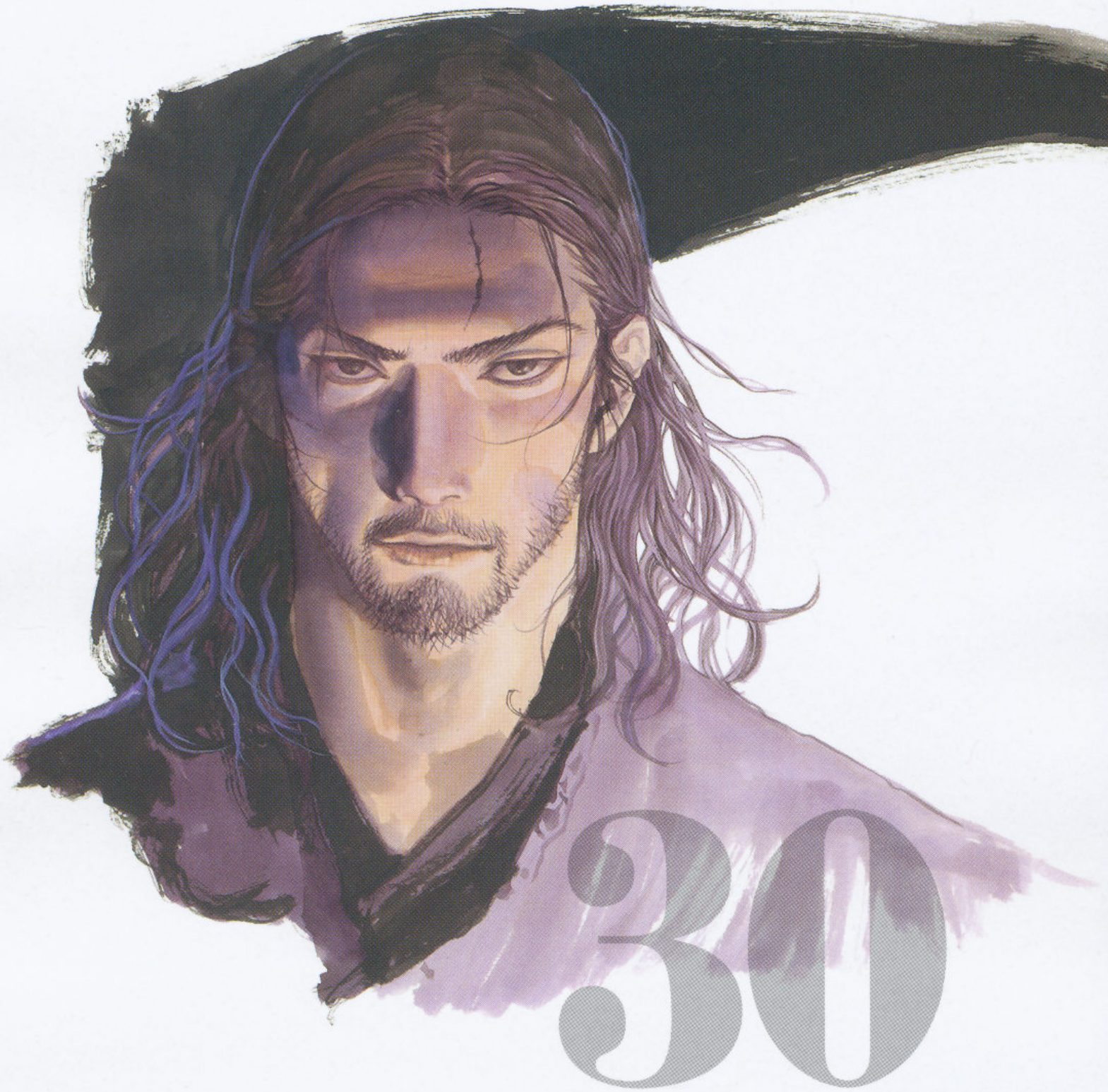

30

VAGABOND

Inoue Takehiko

IS THE MOON OUT?
THE MOON?
IF I COULD JUST STARE OFF AT THE MOON...
バガボンド
VAGABOND

Vagabond #261: Moonlight

もはや、剣には生きられぬのか——。
緊迫の単行本最新刊第29巻、絶賛発売中!

バガボンド
VAGABOND
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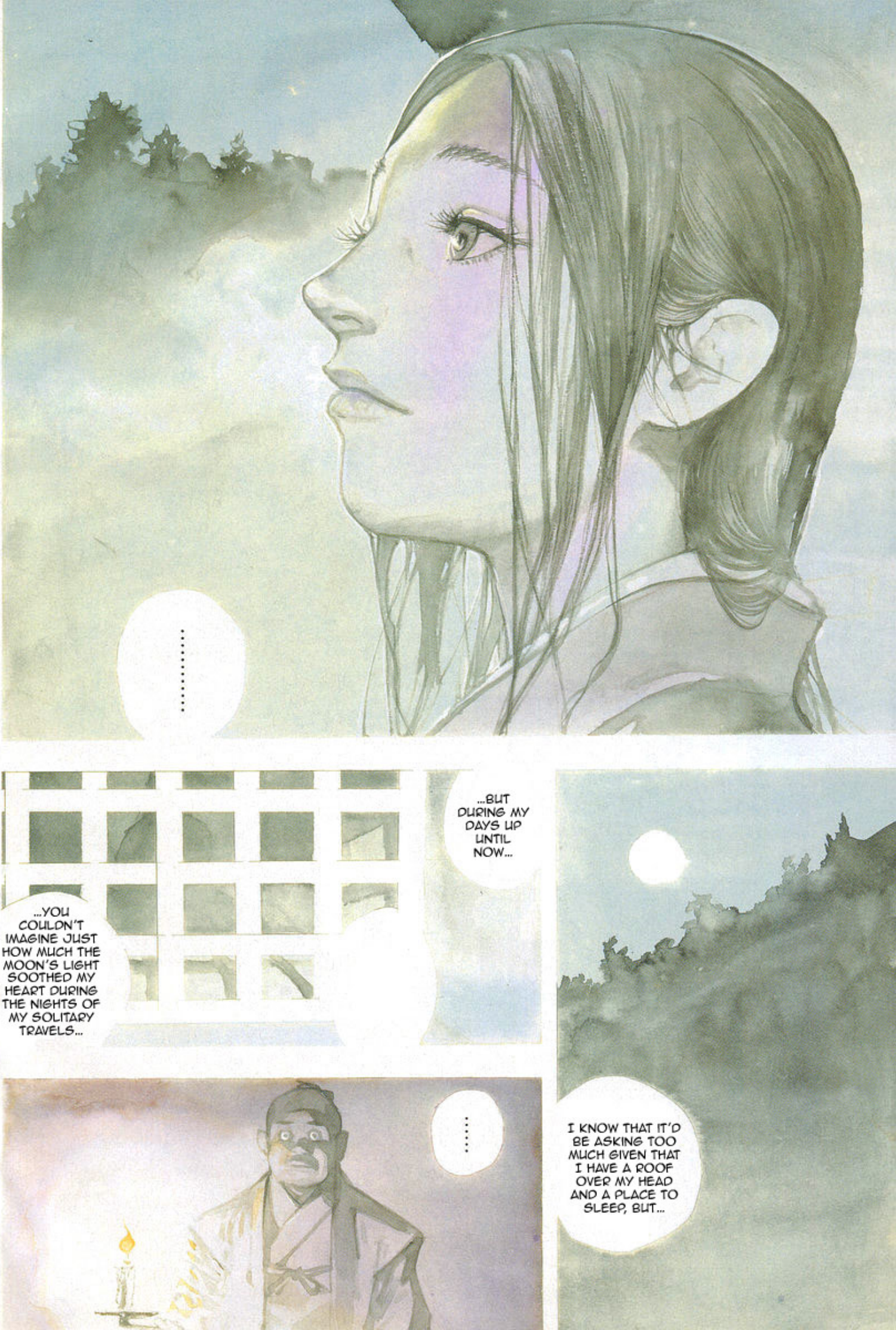
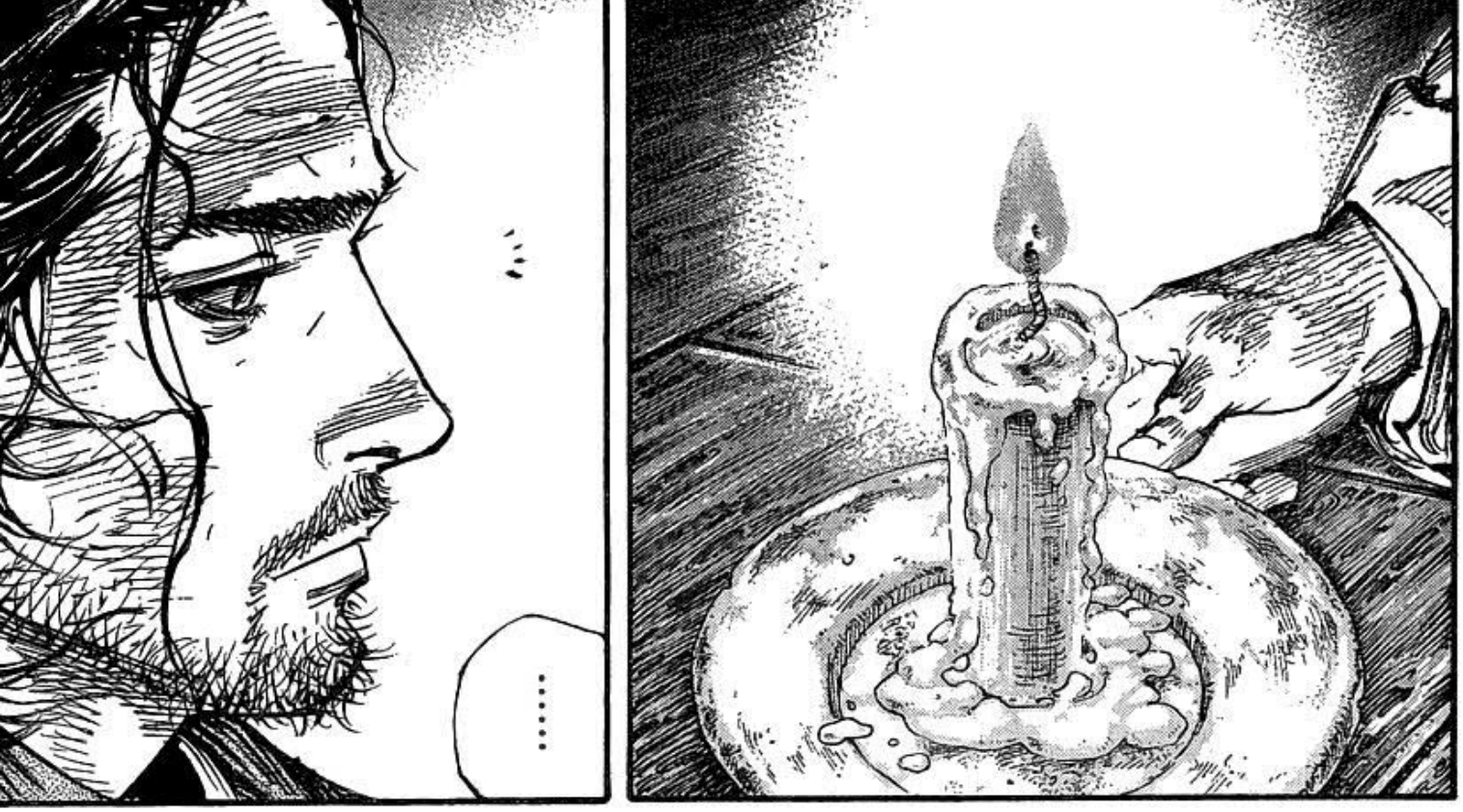
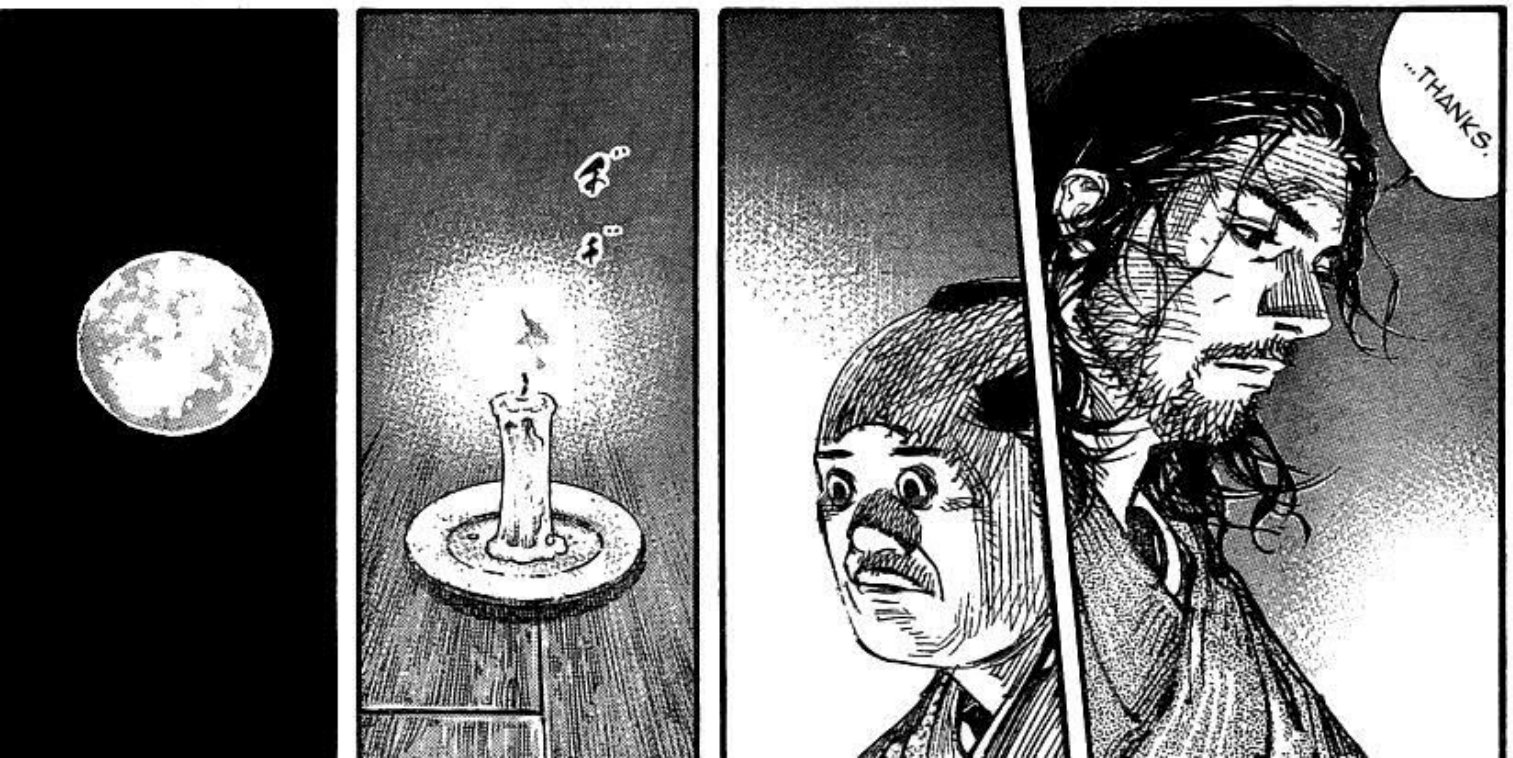
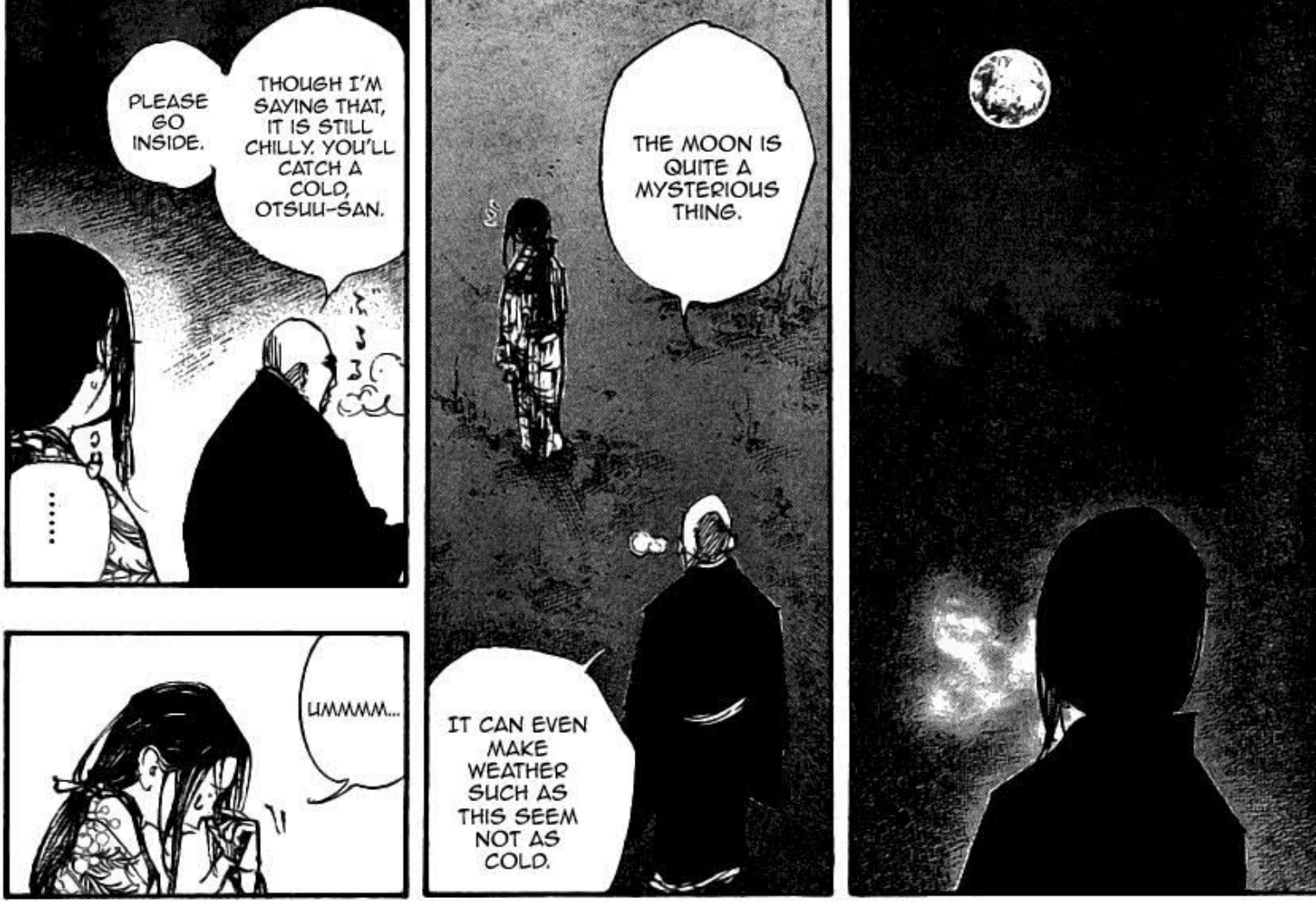
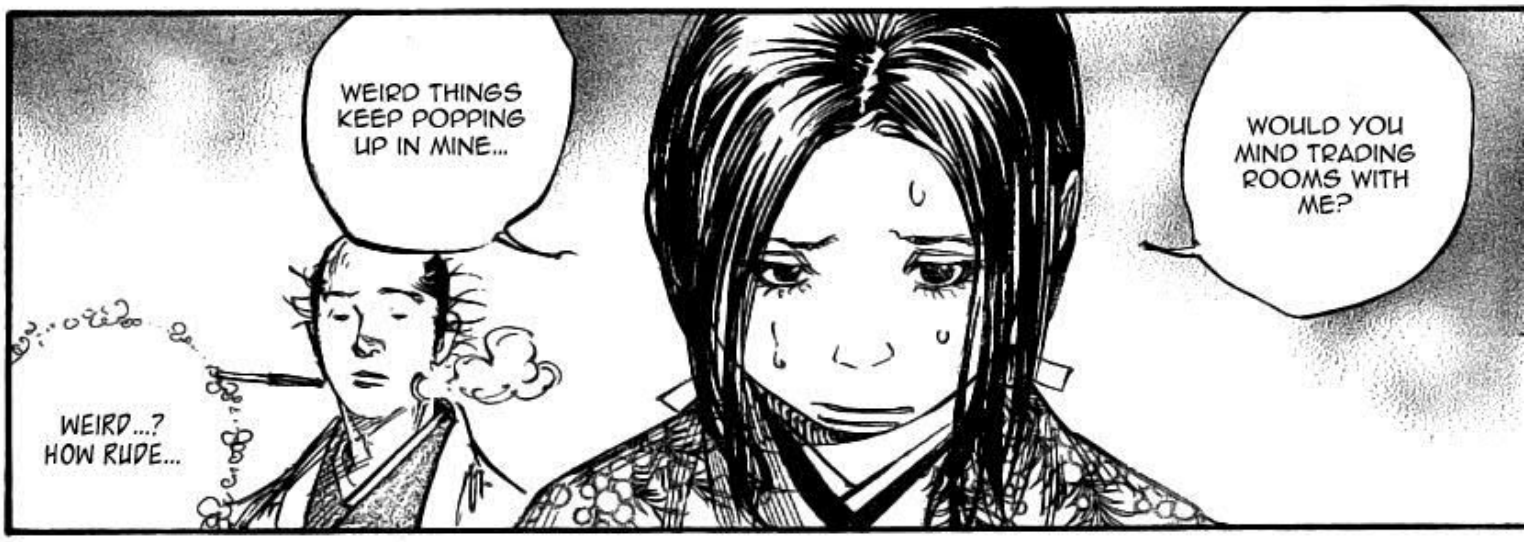

.....
...BUT DURING MY DAYS UP UNTIL NOW...
...YOU COULDN'T IMAGINE JUST HOW MUCH THE MOON'S LIGHT SOOTHED MY HEART DURING THE NIGHTS OF MY SOLITARY TRAVELS...
I KNOW THAT IT'D BE ASKING TOO MUCH GIVEN THAT I HAVE A ROOF OVER MY HEAD AND A PLACE TO SLEEP, BUT...
.....

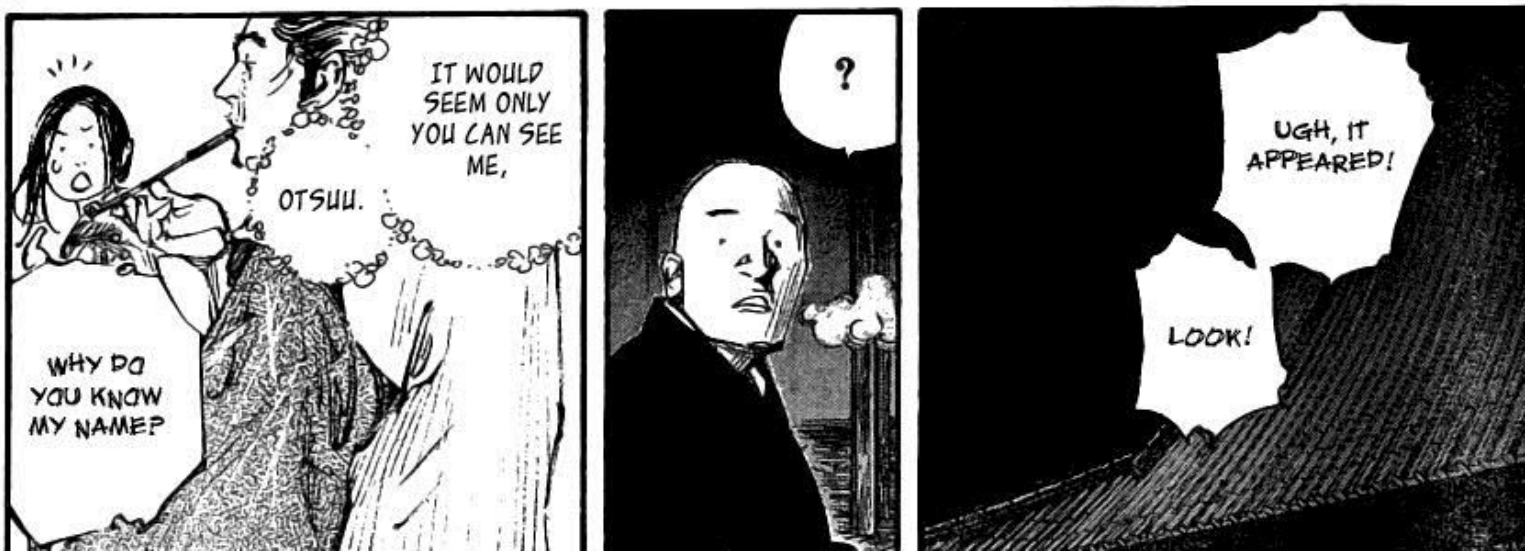

.....

.....
...BUT I WILL LEAVE THIS HERE FOR YOU.
THIS MIGHT NOT BE QUITE THE SAME AS THE MOON...

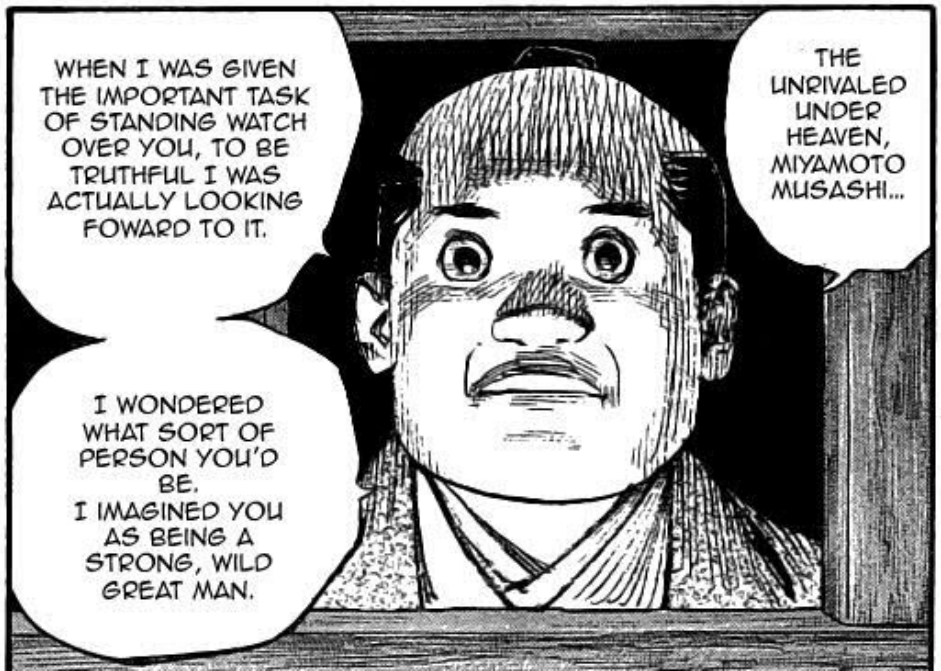

...THANKS.


PLEASE GO INSIDE.
THOUGH I'M SAYING THAT, IT IS STILL CHILLY. YOU'LL CATCH A COLD, OTSUU-SAN.
.....
THE MOON IS QUITE A MYSTERIOUS THING.
IT CAN EVEN MAKE WEATHER SUCH AS THIS SEEM NOT AS COLD.
UMMMM...


WEIRD THINGS KEEP POPPING UP IN MINE...
WOULD YOU MIND TRADING ROOMS WITH ME?
WEIRD...? HOW RUDE...


IT WOULD SEEM ONLY YOU CAN SEE ME,
OTSUU.
WHY DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
?
UGH, IT APPEARED!
LOOK!

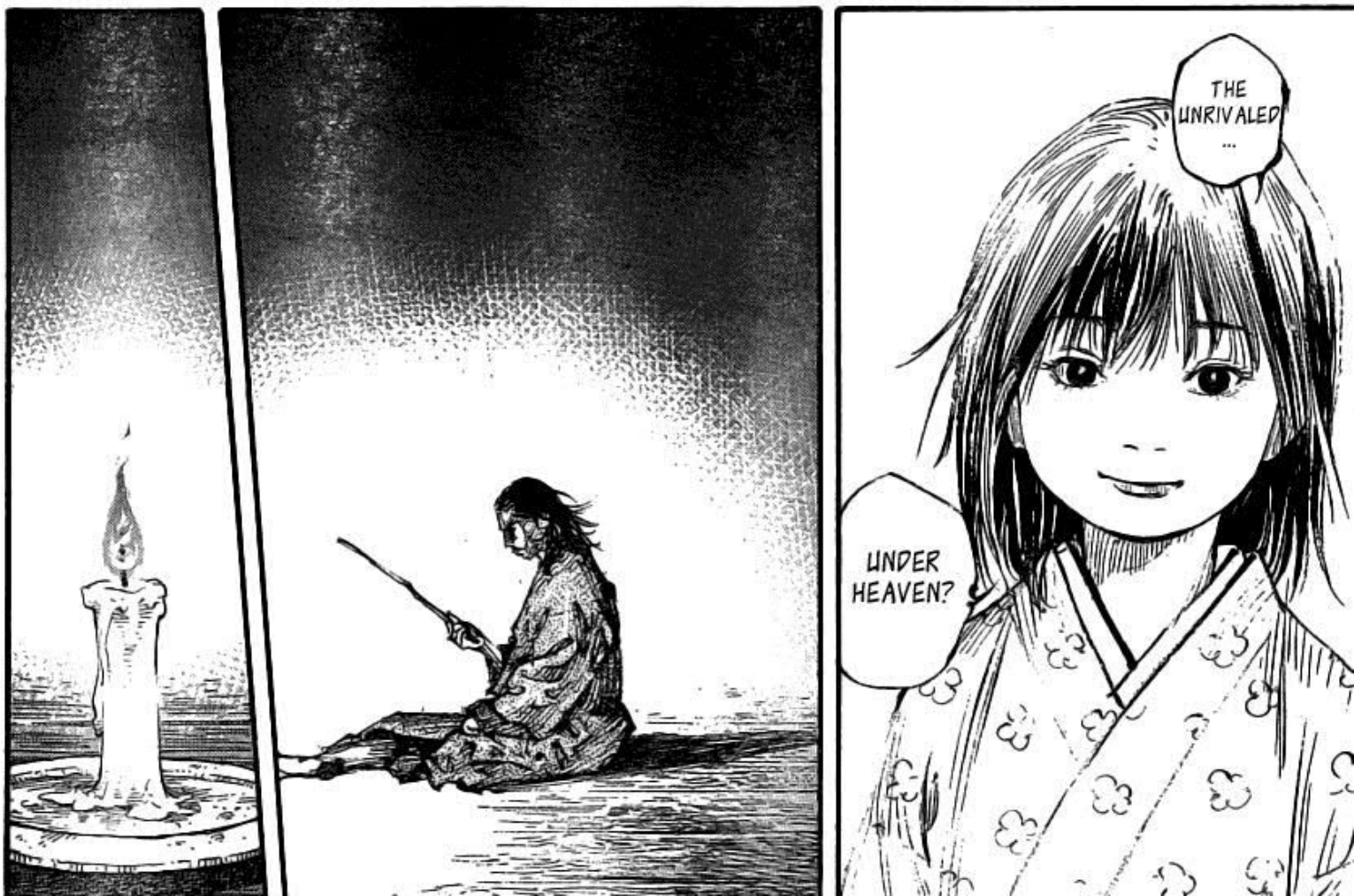
NOT SURE, BUT I HAVE COME TO KNOW MANY THINGS.
I CAN EVEN DO THIS.
WHY CAN ONLY I SEE HIM?
I WONDER.
IT'S MOST CERTAINLY
BECAUSE YOU ARE MUSASHI'S MOST IMPORTANT PERSON.
WHO SAYS?
I'VE COME TO KNOW MANY THINGS.
.....


WHEN I WAS GIVEN THE IMPORTANT TASK OF STANDING WATCH OVER YOU, TO BE TRUTHFUL I WAS ACTUALLY LOOKING FOWARD TO IT.
I WONDERED WHAT SORT OF PERSON YOU'D BE.
I IMAGINED YOU AS BEING A STRONG, WILD GREAT MAN.
THE UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN, MIYAMOTO MUSASHI...

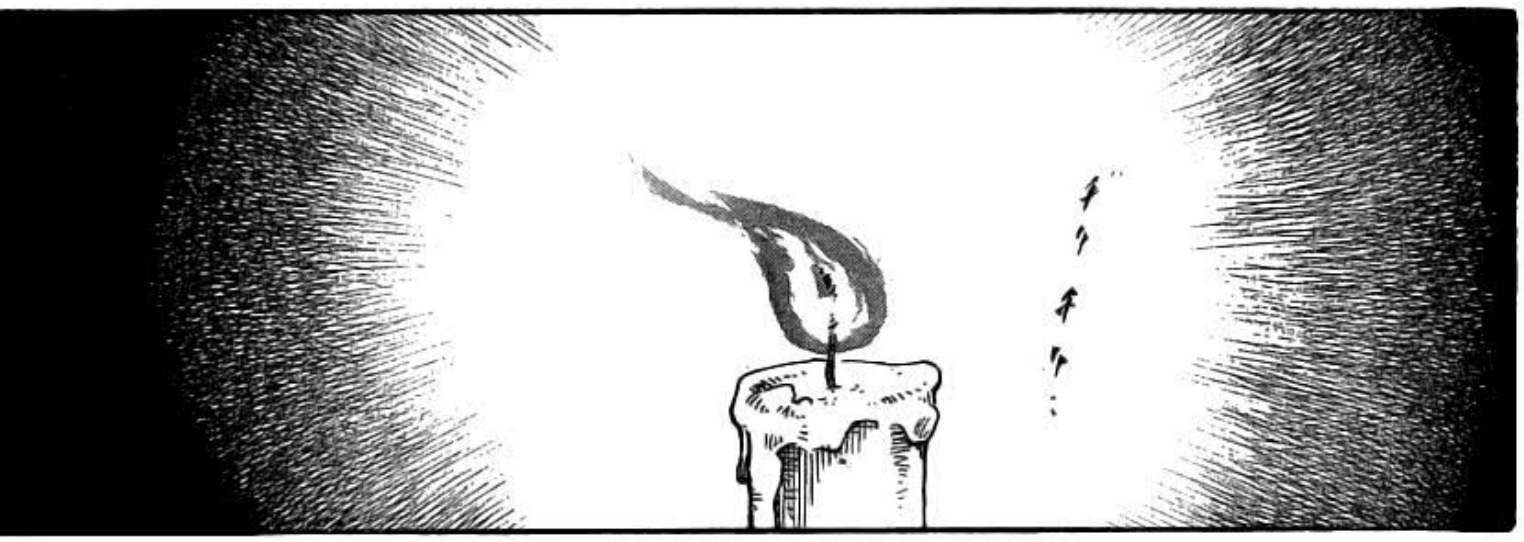
I TOO AM ONE DEDICATED TO THE SWORD...

THERE ISN'T ANOTHER PERSON IN THIS WORLD WHO COULD DO WHAT YOU DID.
THE UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN?
ME?
9
YOU HAVE A SOFT WAY OF SPEAKING
QUITE UNEXPECTED.
PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
YOU ARE TRULY THE UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN.
Don't tell anyone, Otsuu.

THE UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN.
I WANNA GET SO STRONG...
THAT THERE ISN'T ANYONE IN THE WORLD WHO DOESN'T KNOW MY NAME.


THE UNRIVALED ...
UNDER HEAVEN?

Unrivaled
Under
Heaven.
You are
truly...



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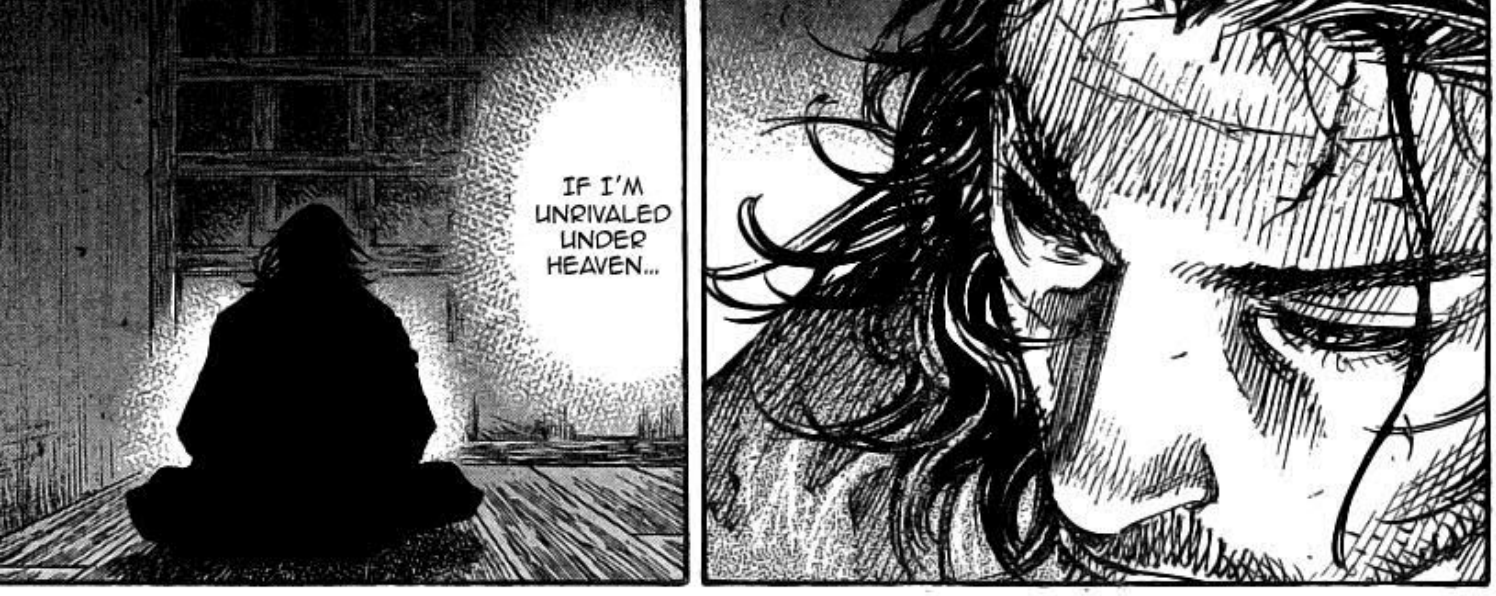
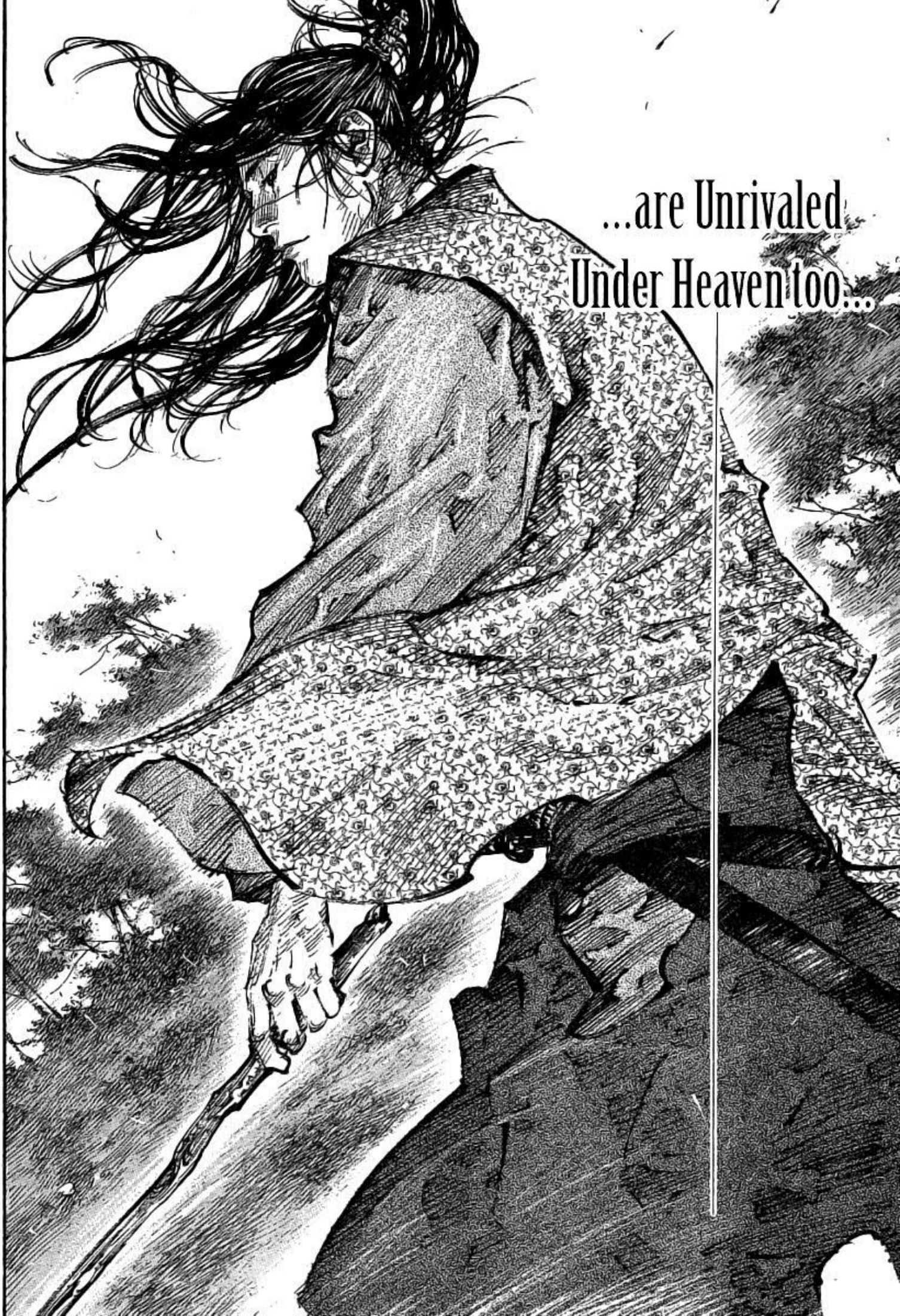
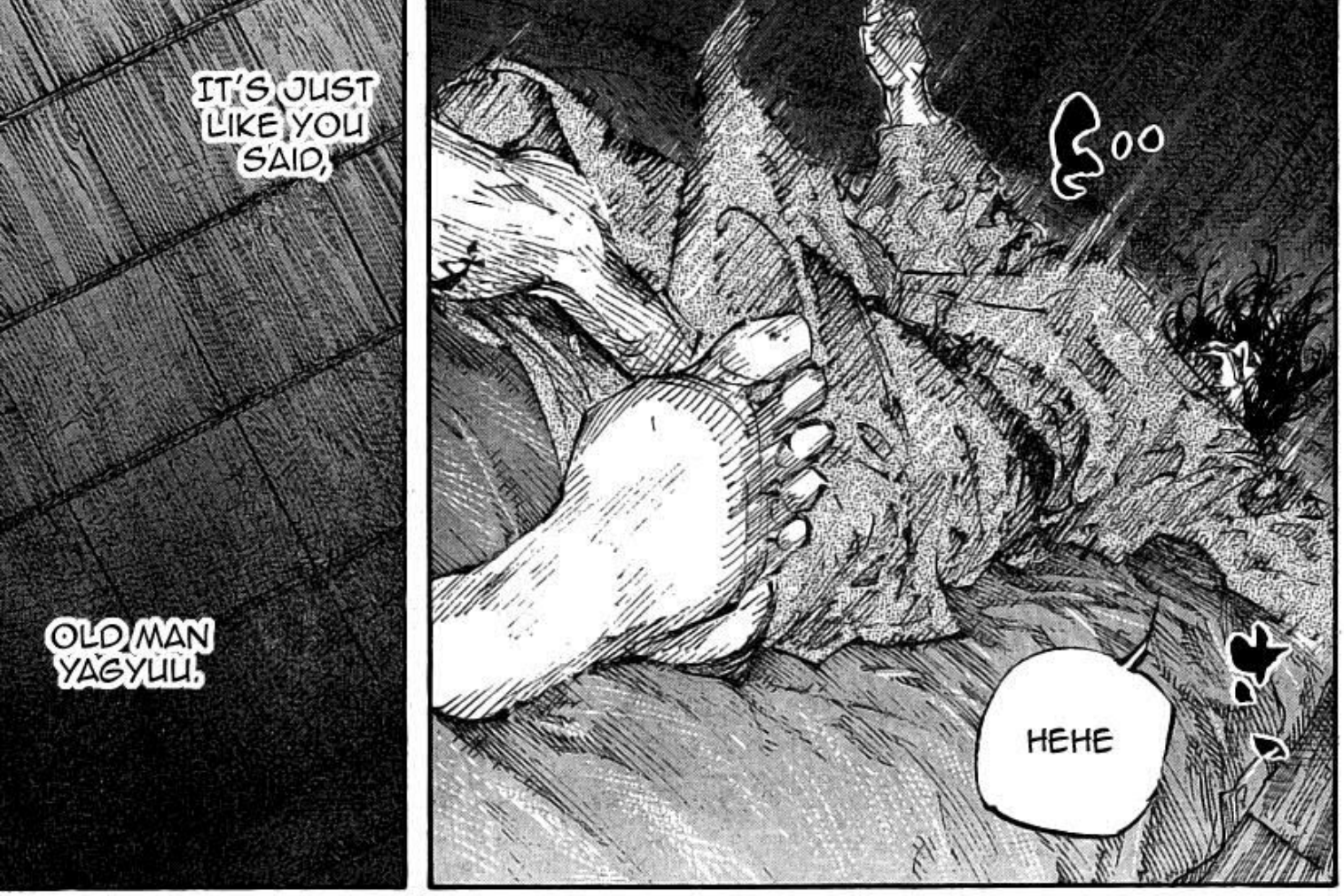
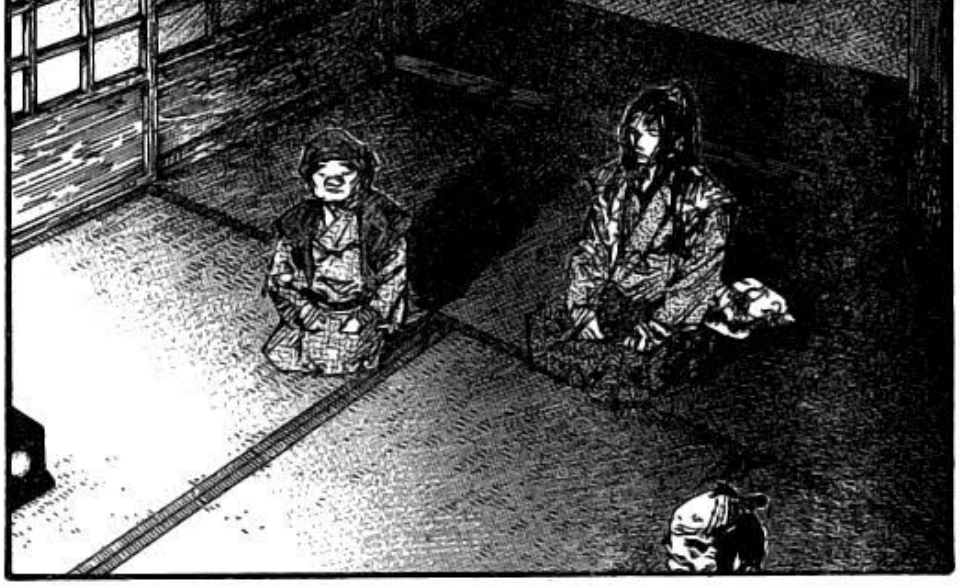

IF I'M UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN...

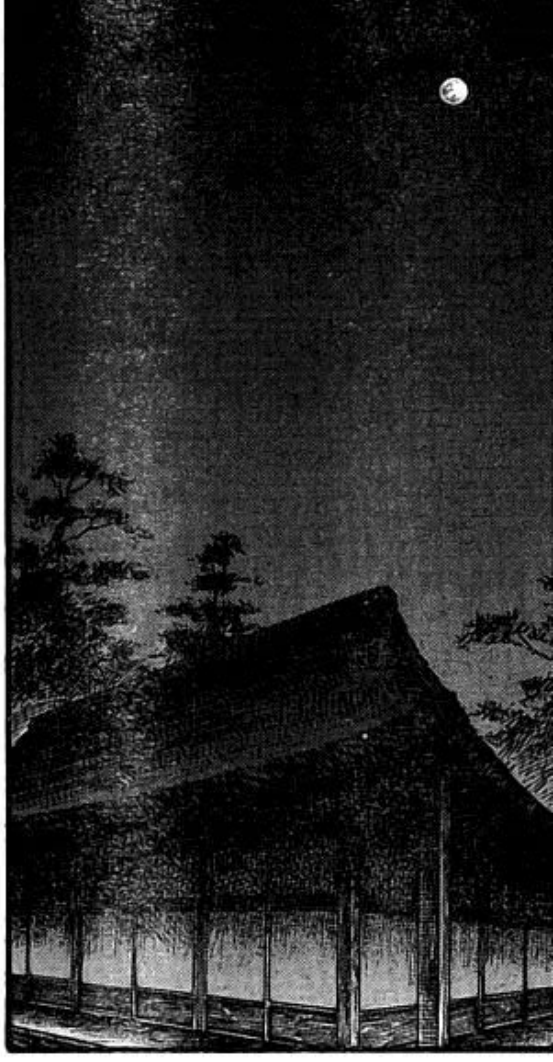
THEN OVER THERE...
AND HERE...
にやむ


...are Unrivaled
Under Heaven too...


IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID,
OLD MAN YAGYUU.
Goo
HEHE

IT'S OVER...





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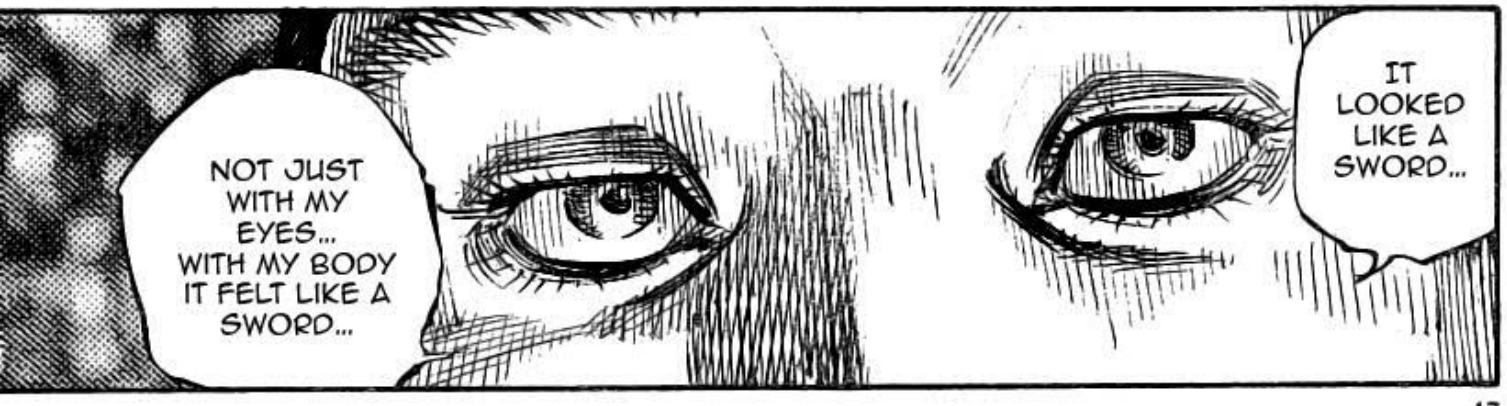
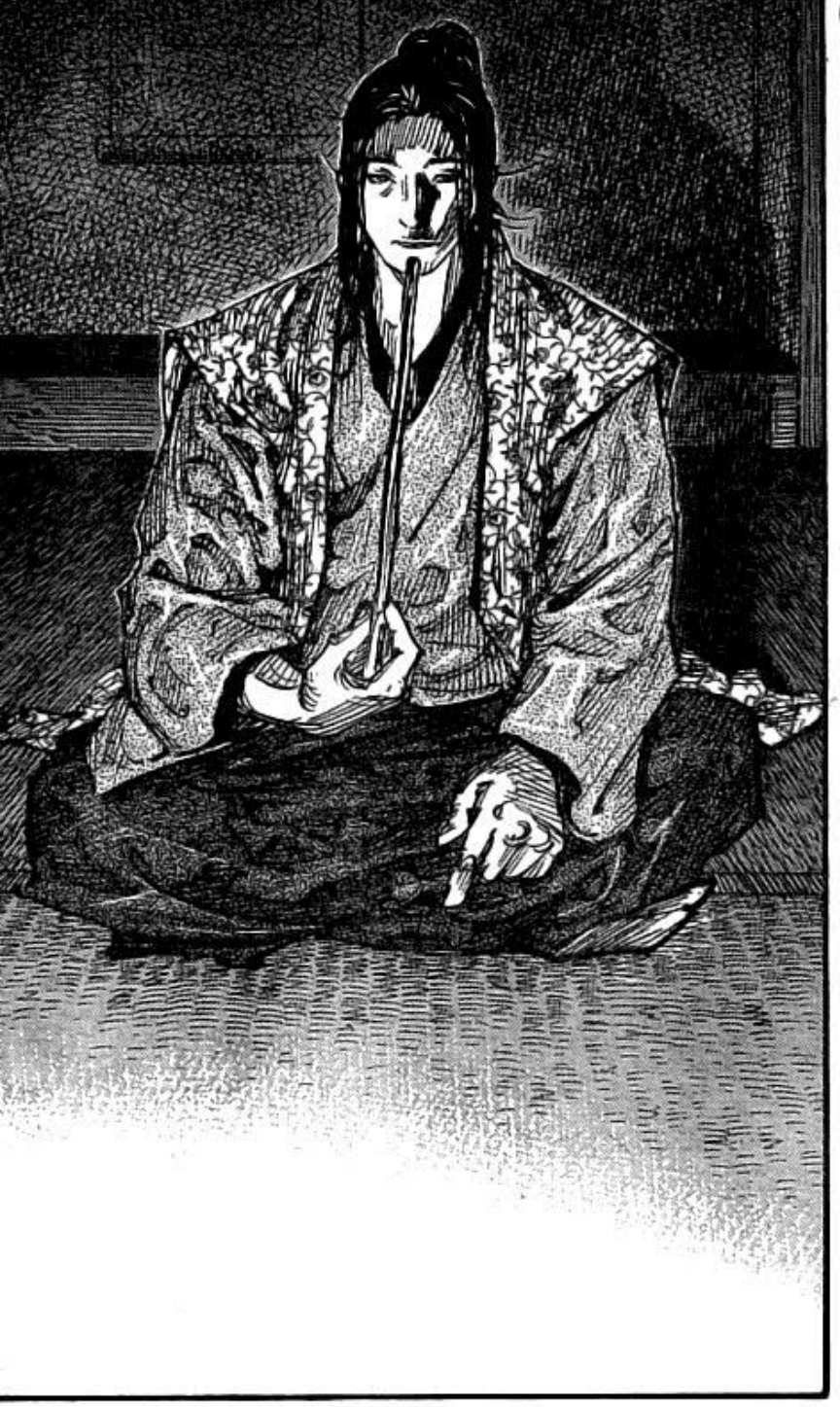
DON'T SCARE US LIKE THAT, OGAWA!!
.....

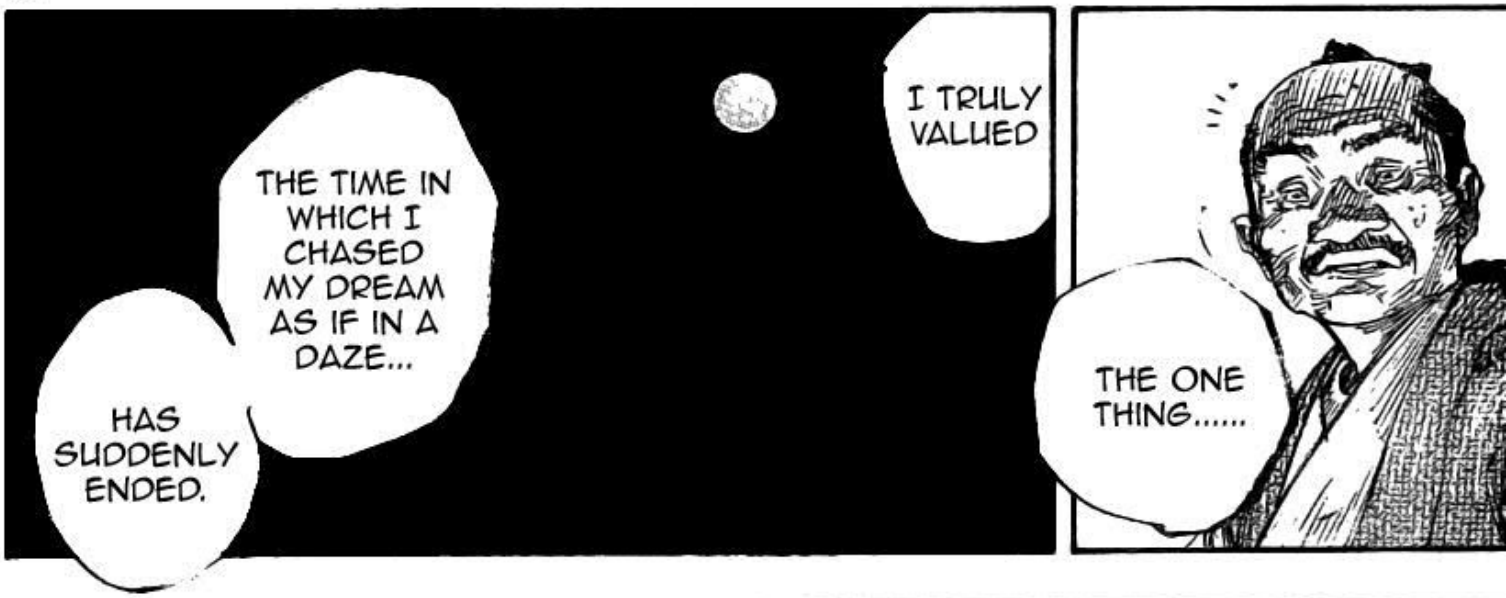

IT LOOKED LIKE A SWORD...
NOT JUST WITH MY EYES... WITH MY BODY IT FELT LIKE A SWORD...

IS THAT A LIVING THING'S INSTINCT...
THAT SWORD...
WAS A STICK RIGHT?

HEEY!
COME, COME.
GRANDPA!?
HURRY ON BACK NOW.
IT'S NOT YOUR TIME TO GO YET...



IT HAS COME TO AN END


I TRULY VALUED
THE TIME IN WHICH I CHASED MY DREAM AS IF IN A DAZE...
HAS SUDDENLY ENDED.
THE ONE THING.....

STARTING FROM TODAY ONWARDS, I'LL LAY DOWN MY SWORD
!?
WHAT DID YOU...!!
IWAMA SAMA.
AND I THINK THAT IT WILL NEVER RETURN.
?
ARE YOU POSITIVE...?
.....WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

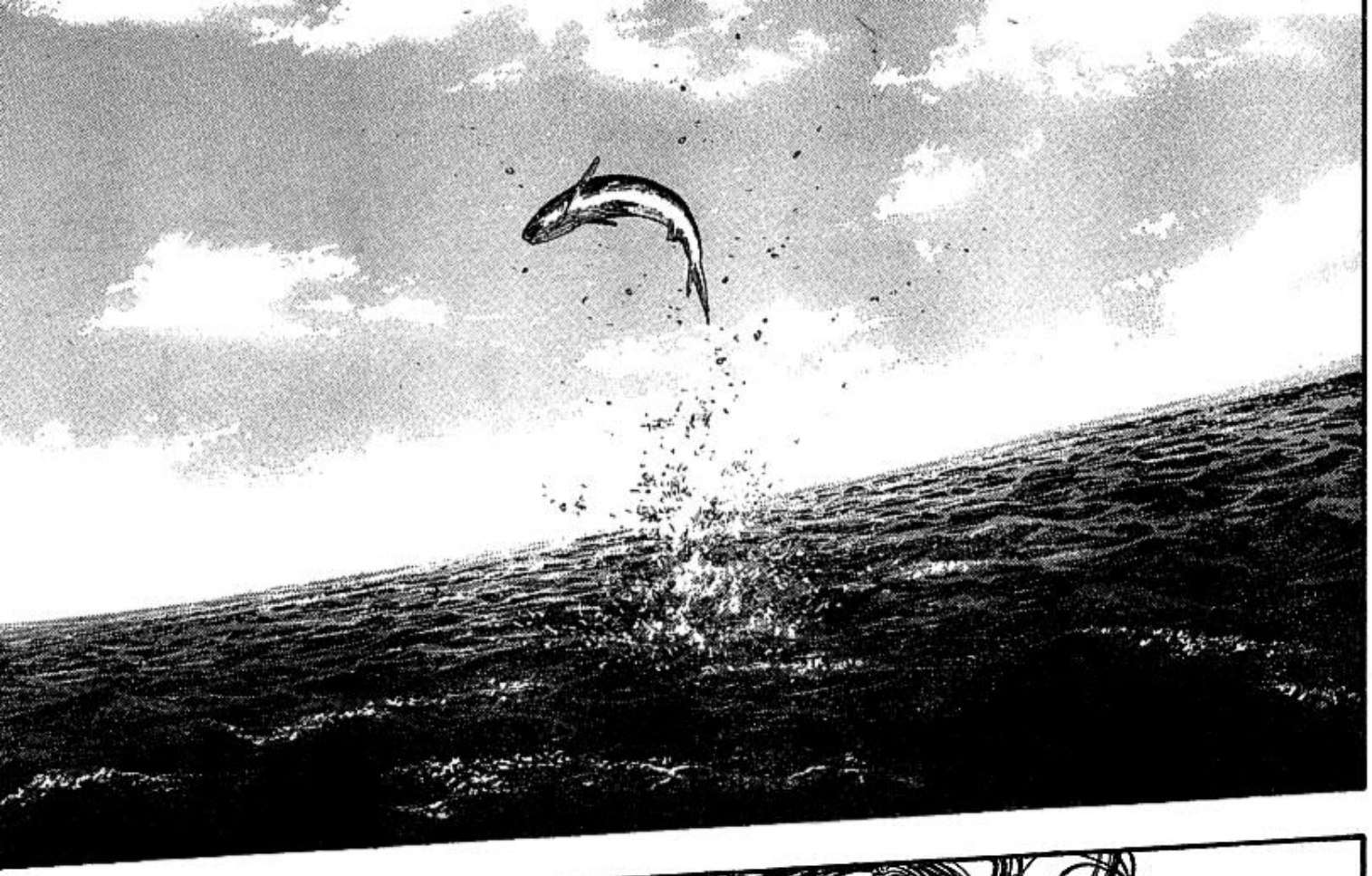
I HAVE BEEN DEFEATED, KOJIROU-DONO

I, OGAWA
WITH MY DREAMS OF THE SWORD

MY REMAINING LIFETIME THAT IS CURRENTLY AT STAKE?
HAVE BEEN SCATTERED AND ABANDONED.
DO YOU NOT WANT TO TAKE AWAY

YOU'D THINK HE'D NEVER BEEN ON A BOAT BEFORE.
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME TO KYUUSHUU, RIGHT KOJIRO?!
AA AA AA

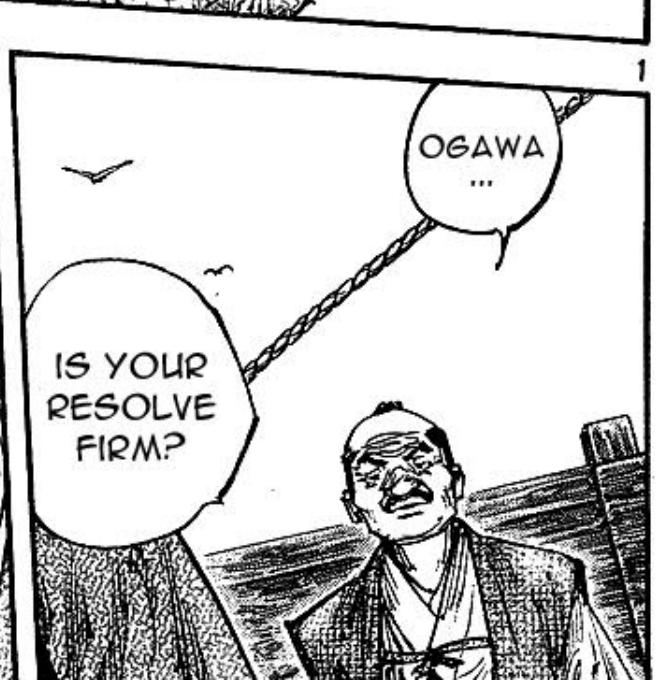
AAAA
『バガボンド』＃262は次号第11号に登場！



AH

AA
AH

.....
IWAMA-
SAMA
...


OGAWA
...
IS YOUR
RESOLVE
FIRM?

HIS WHEREABOUTS.
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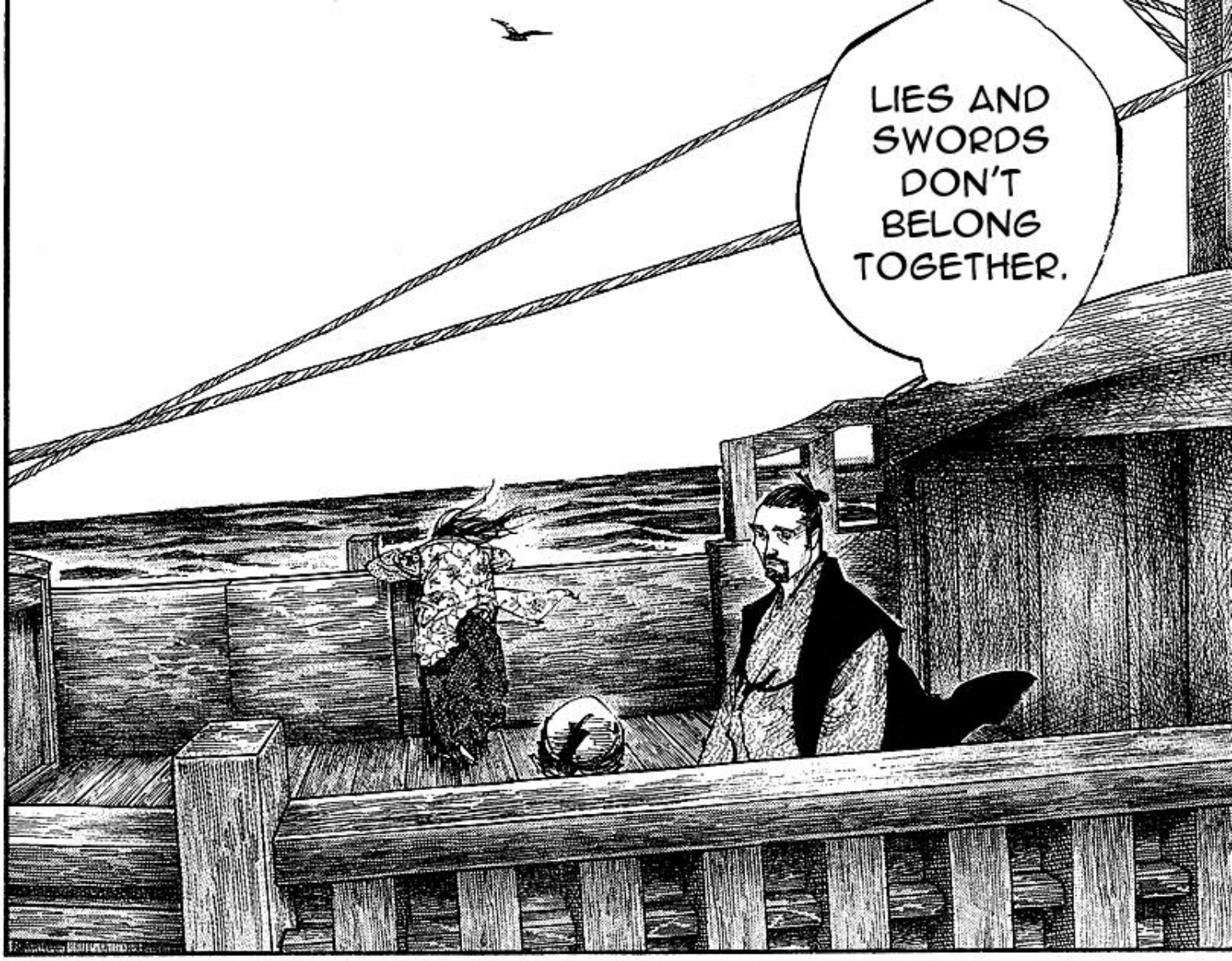
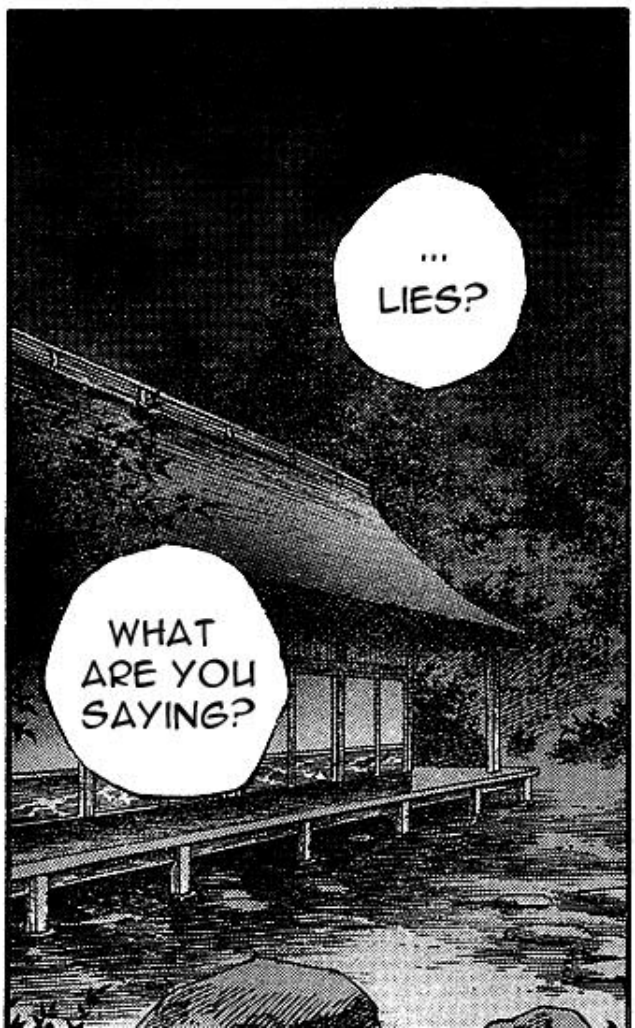

LIES AND SWORDS DON'T BELONG TOGETHER.

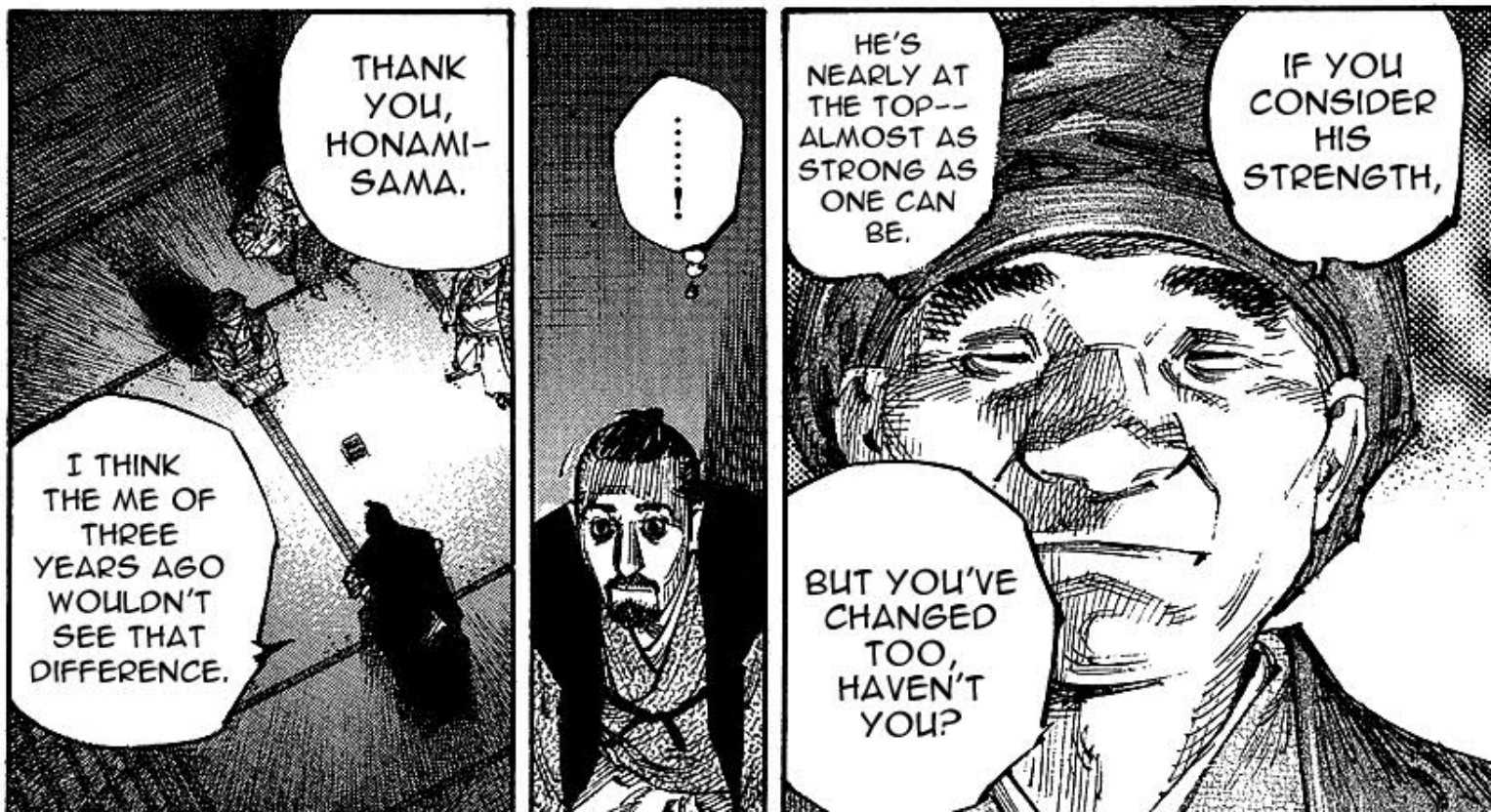

...
LIES?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

.....

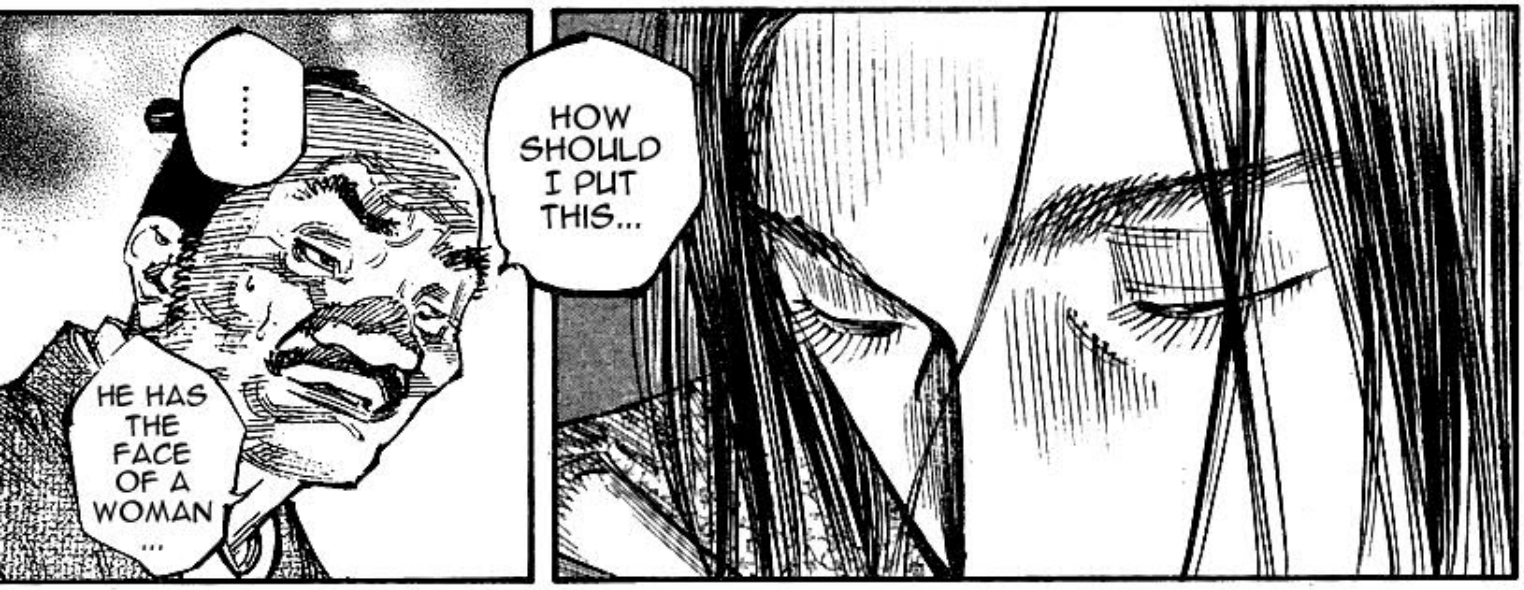
*T/N: OGAWA'S FIRST NAME IS IENAO.

... NO MATTER HOW MUCH TRAINING YOU'VE HAD, NO MATTER IF YOU'RE A STRONG PERSON OR NOT, YOU COULDN'T HAVE--
...
WELL... DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
DON'T STOP!!
YOU'RE STILL STRONG!!
.....

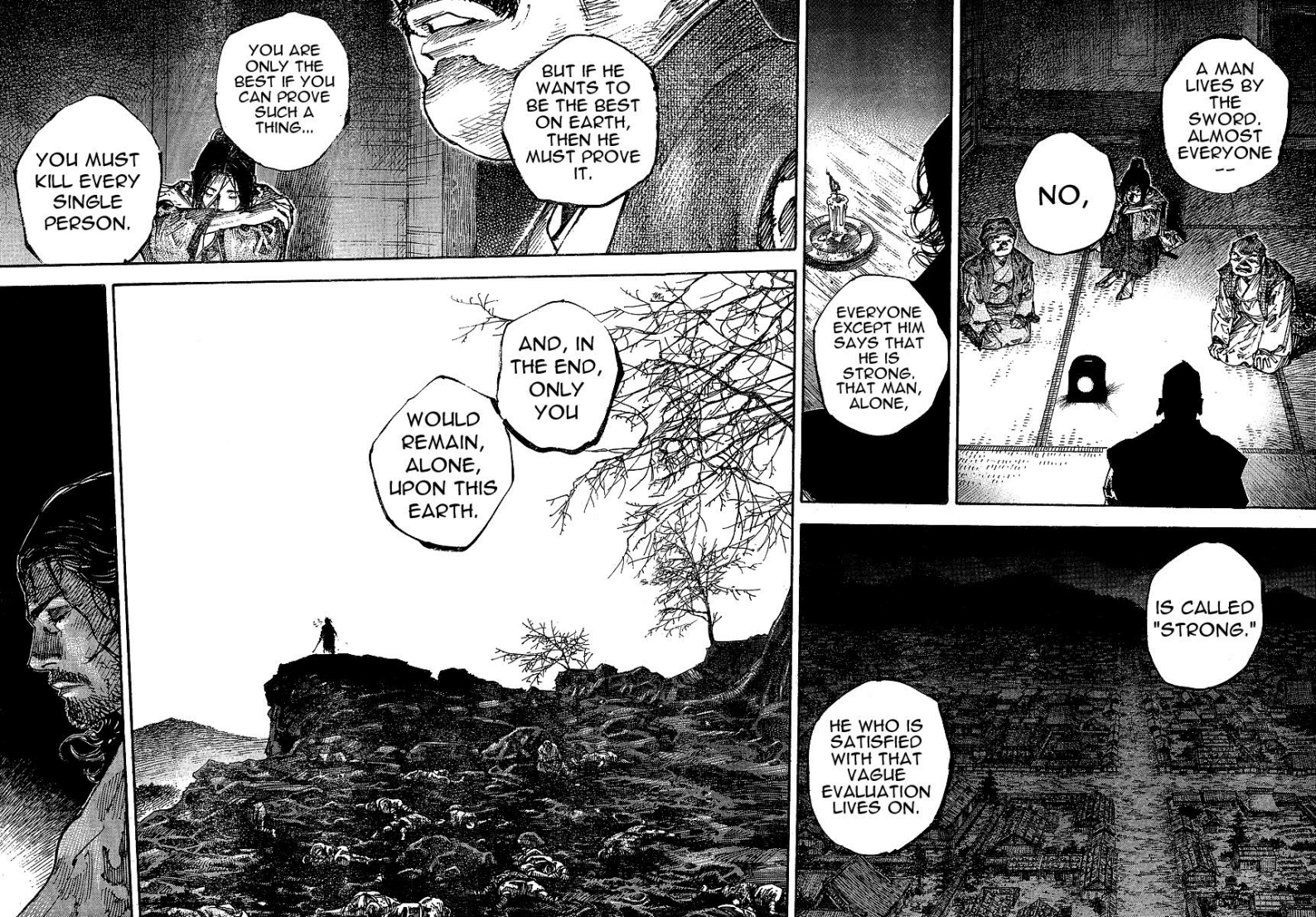
.....
...
IS THAT... KOJIROU!?

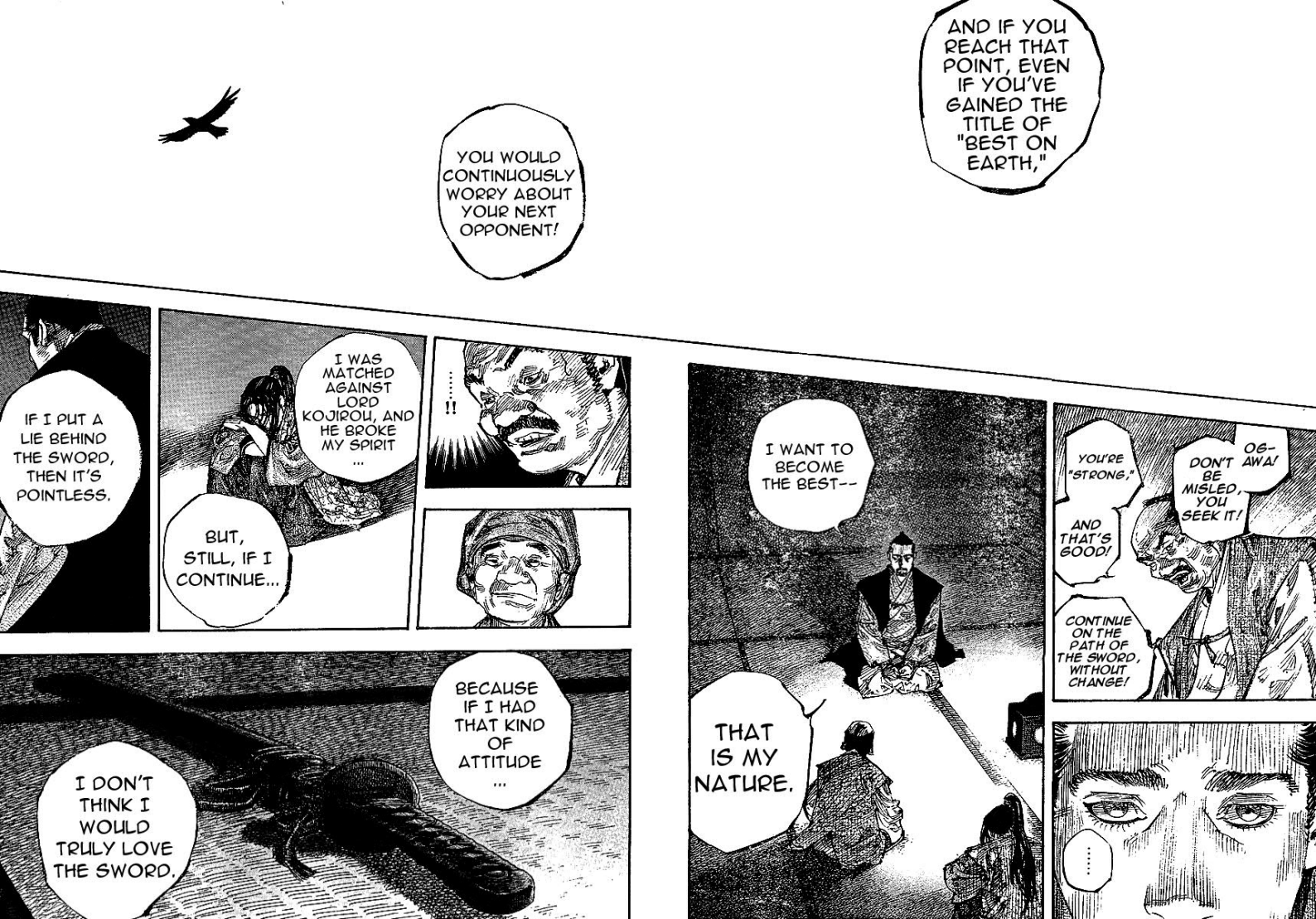

THANK YOU, HONAMI-SAMA.
I THINK THE ME OF THREE YEARS AGO WOULDN'T SEE THAT DIFFERENCE.
.....!
HE'S NEARLY AT THE TOP-- ALMOST AS STRONG AS ONE CAN BE.
IF YOU CONSIDER HIS STRENGTH,
BUT YOU'VE CHANGED TOO, HAVEN'T YOU?

THIS KOJIROU IS SO STRONG?
HE HAS THE FACE OF A CHILD,
OR...
.....


.....
HE HAS THE FACE OF A WOMAN ...
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...

OKAY, LISTEN WELL, OGAWA.


YOU ARE ONLY THE BEST IF YOU CAN PROVE SUCH A THING...
BUT IF HE WANTS TO BE THE BEST ON EARTH, THEN HE MUST PROVE IT.
YOU MUST KILL EVERY SINGLE PERSON.
A MAN LIVES BY THE SWORD. ALMOST EVERYONE --
NO,
EVERYONE EXCEPT HIM SAYS THAT HE IS STRONG. THAT MAN, ALONE,
AND, IN THE END, ONLY YOU
WOULD REMAIN, ALONE, UPON THIS EARTH.
IS CALLED "STRONG."
HE WHO IS SATISFIED WITH THAT VAGUE EVALUATION LIVES ON.


AND IF YOU REACH THAT POINT, EVEN IF YOU'VE GAINED THE TITLE OF "BEST ON EARTH,"
YOU WOULD CONTINUOUSLY WORRY ABOUT YOUR NEXT OPPONENT!
IF I PUT A LIE BEHIND THE SWORD, THEN IT'S POINTLESS.
I WAS MATCHED AGAINST LORD KOJIROU, AND HE BROKE MY SPIRIT ...
BUT, STILL, IF I CONTINUE...
……!!
I DON'T THINK I WOULD TRULY LOVE THE SWORD.
BECAUSE IF I HAD THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE ...
I WANT TO BECOME THE BEST--
THAT IS MY NATURE.
YOU'RE "STRONG," AND THAT'S GOOD!
OO- DON'T AWA! BE MISLED, YOU SEEK IT!
CONTINUE ON THE PATH OF THE SWORD, WITHOUT CHANGE!
……

HON-AMI-SAMA ...

I SHOULDN'T ASK, BUT CAN YOU LEND ME YOUR SUZU-KIHAKO*?

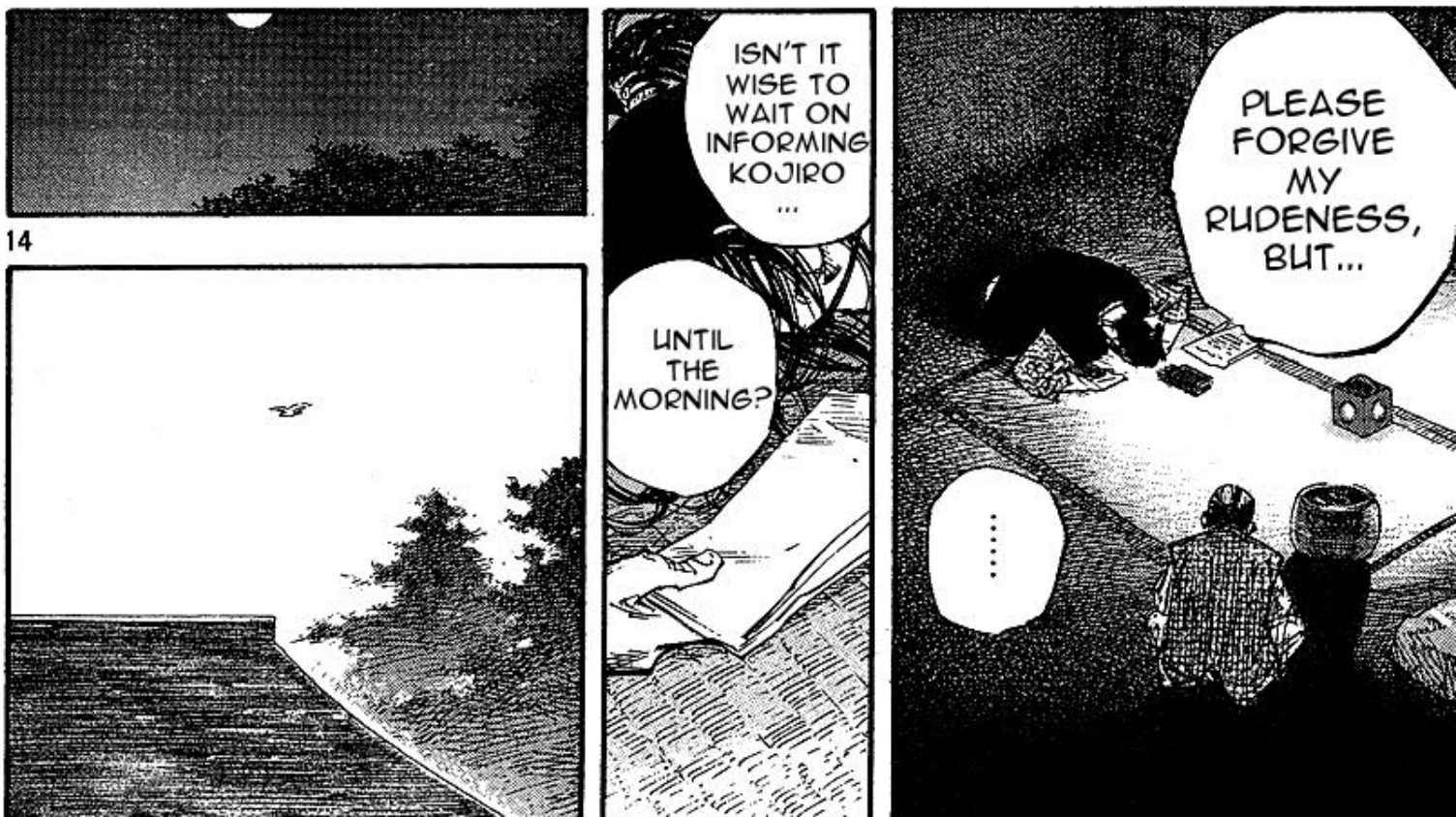
EXCUSE ME.

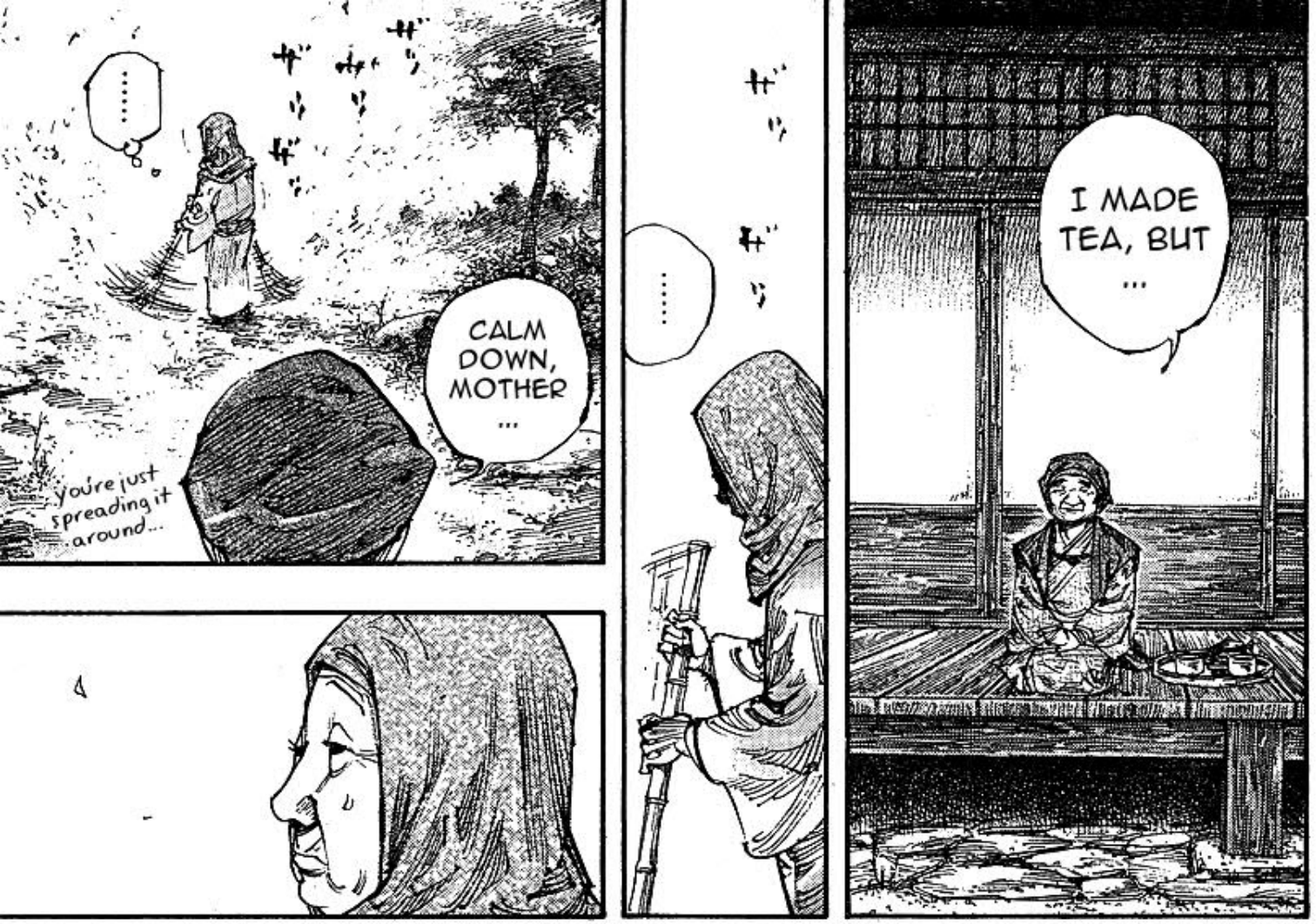
*T/N: INKSTONE CASE, FOR WRITING.

YES ...
OGAWA, UNTIL NOW, YOU'VE WORKED YOUR WAY UP TO BEING THE SWORDSMANSHIP INSTRUCTOR. AND NOW, YOU'LL LEAVE THE HOSOKAWA HOUSE FOR ELSEWHERE. YOUR STATUS... YOUR CREDIT...
IF YOU HAND THOSE OVER TO KOJIROU AS HE IS NOW...
I WILL... THAT IS,
HE IS A DEAF-MUTE. SOMEONE MUST SUPPORT KOJIROU FROM BEHIND, AND I WILL BE THAT PERSON---
.....

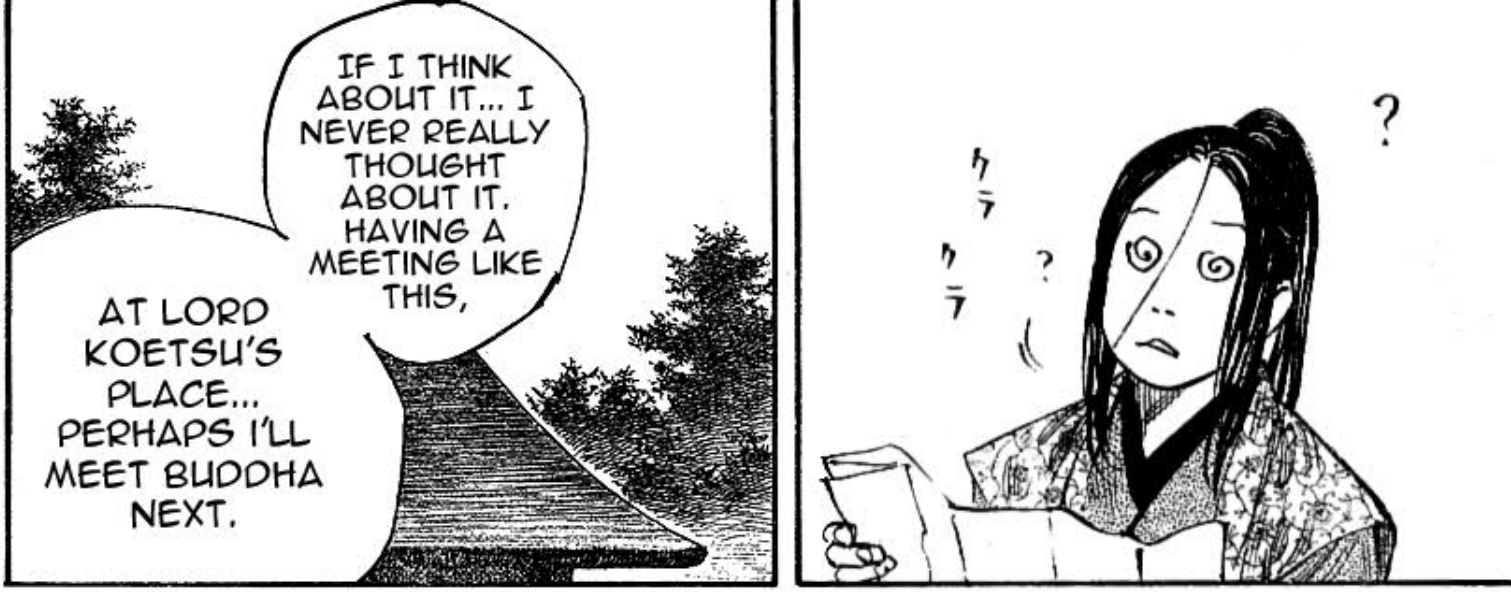
.....
IWAMA-SAMA.
DECIDING ALL THIS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE ...
BE IT THROUGH MY LIMBS,
MY EARS,
OR MY MOUTH.
PLEASE, FOR THE GOOD OF THE HOSOKAWA HOUSE, YOU MUST PERMIT ME TO DO THIS,

IENAO!
ISN'T THAT WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU?
WE ALL HAVE TO DECIDE BY OUR-SELVES!

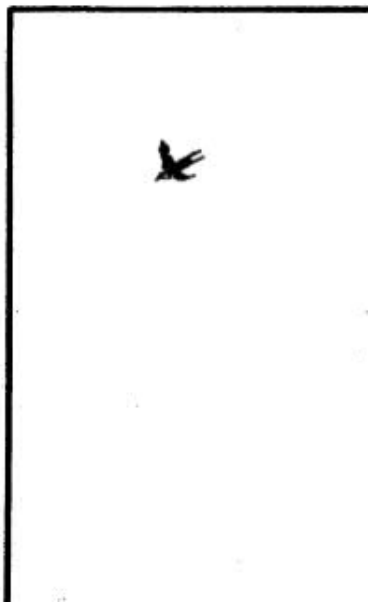

14
UNTIL THE MORNING?
ISN'T IT WISE TO WAIT ON INFORMING KOJIRO ...
PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS, BUT...
.....


……
CALM DOWN, MOTHER …
you're just spreading it around…
……
I MADE TEA, BUT …

……


IF I THINK ABOUT IT... I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT. HAVING A MEETING LIKE THIS,
AT LORD KOETSU'S PLACE... PERHAPS I'LL MEET BUDDHA NEXT.
?
?

I, IN DEFERENCE TO YOUR EXCEPTIONAL SWORDSMANSHIP, REGARDLESS OF YOUR SOCIAL STATUS, MUST GIVE YOU MY DEEPEST RESPECT!
PLEASE GREET US AS RESPECTFULLY AS YOU CAN!
GANRYUU SASAKI KOJIROU!



KOUETSU AND I... WISH YOU GOOD THINGS, ALRIGHT?
I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD SPEAK BEFORE THIS ...

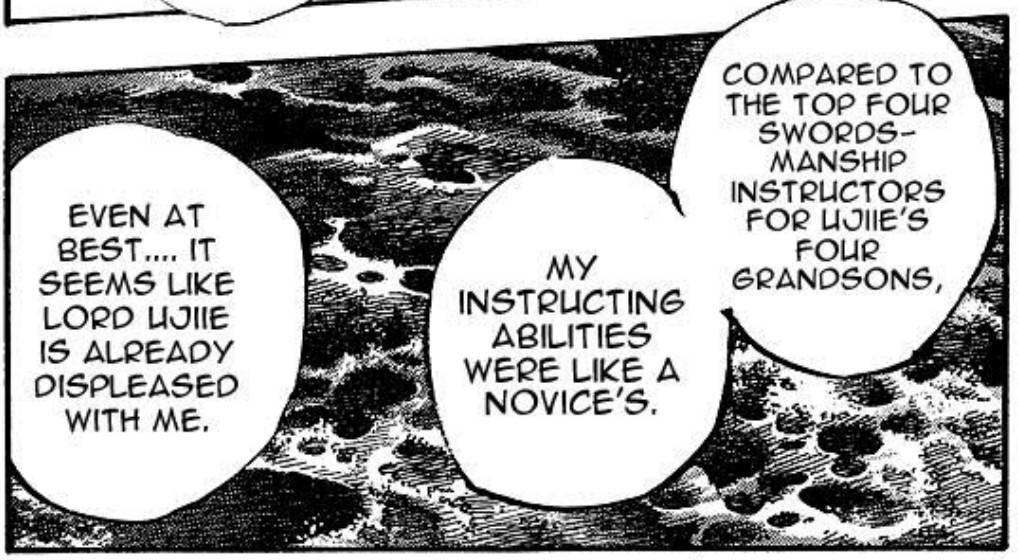
BE WELL, ALRIGHT?
KOJIROU'S RESIDENTIAL ESTATE SHALL BE BUILT IN THE WORLD ...

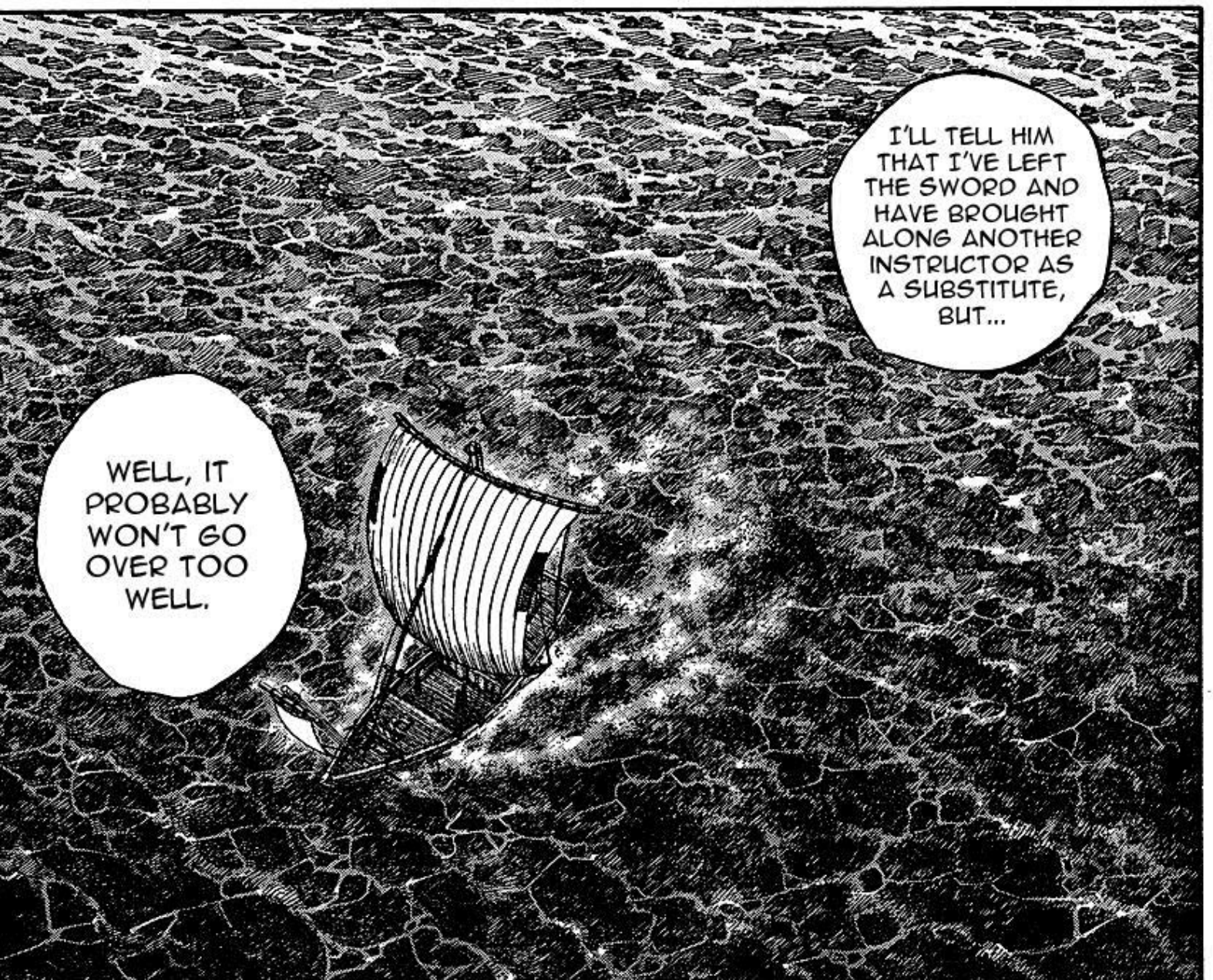
THIS SHALL BE OUR FINAL FAREWELL ...

NEVER-THE-LESS ...
THE ART OF WAR MAKES THE HOSOKAWA FAMILY OF KOKURA ROAR; IT'S OUR PEDIGREE.
GANRYUU SASAKI KOJIROU ...!!
YOU OFTEN ONLY HEAR THE RUMORS...
LIKE THAT, HIS EXISTENCE SEEMED VAGUE, BUT...
THIS IS THE GENUINE ARTICLE, RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!
NOT ONLY THAT, HE'S COMING TO MY FIEFDOM!

WELL ...
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY INSTRUCTOR;
UJIIE IS AT THE TOP.
ALL OF THE SUDDEN, OGAWA CHANGED, BUT ...
WILL THEY UNDER-STAND?
HOW IS THAT?

WELL ...
I WONDER HOW WILL IT GO?


COMPARED TO THE TOP FOUR SWORDS-MANSHIP INSTRUCTORS FOR UJIIE'S FOUR GRANDSONS,
MY INSTRUCTING ABILITIES WERE LIKE A NOVICE'S.
EVEN AT BEST.... IT SEEMS LIKE LORD UJIIE IS ALREADY DISPLEASED WITH ME.


I'LL TELL HIM THAT I'VE LEFT THE SWORD AND HAVE BROUGHT ALONG ANOTHER INSTRUCTOR AS A SUBSTITUTE, BUT...
WELL, IT PROBABLY WON'T GO OVER TOO WELL.

ALL THE WORSE, CONSIDERING THAT IT'S LORD GANRYUU SASAKI KOJIROU...

THE TWO SIDES OF FATE

HM...?

緊迫の単行本最新刊第29巻、絶賛発売中!

バガボンド

VAGABOND

原作：吉川英治『宮本武蔵』より

#263 THE FACTS OF A DREAM

井上雄彦

"MORE TAKERIKO ON THE WEB" http://www.itplanning.co.jp/

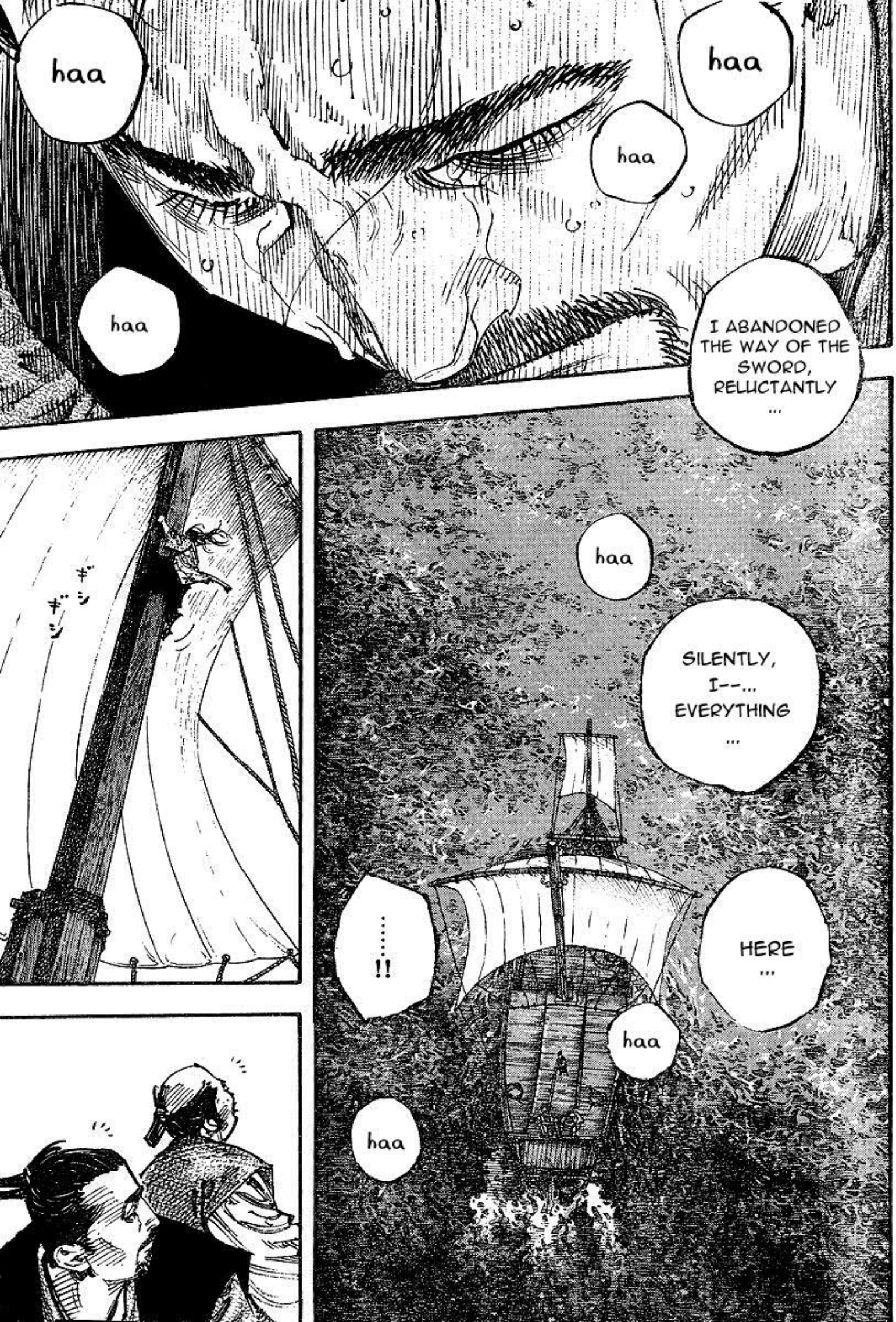
待望の"重版"「井上雄彦 最後のマンガ展」は、熊本市現代美術館にて4/11(土)から!
詳細はhttp://www.flow-er.co.jp/へ!

IF YOU ABIDE BY NATURAL PROVI-DENCE,
YOU WILL BE DOING THE BEST THING FOR THE HOSOKAWA FAMILY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, OGAWA!?
THROWING THE FEUDAL SYSTEM INTO DISARRAY... YOU MUSN'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT!
DON'T BE ABSURD, IWAMA-SAMA!
.....
I SAID, IN THE END, ONLY THE STRONGEST PERSON REMAINS. IT'S LIKE THAT ...
AH, OGAWA?

OGA-
WA!
WAA
AAA
AAA
AA!
WAA
AAA
AAA
AA!
WHY
ARE
YOU UP
THERE?
?

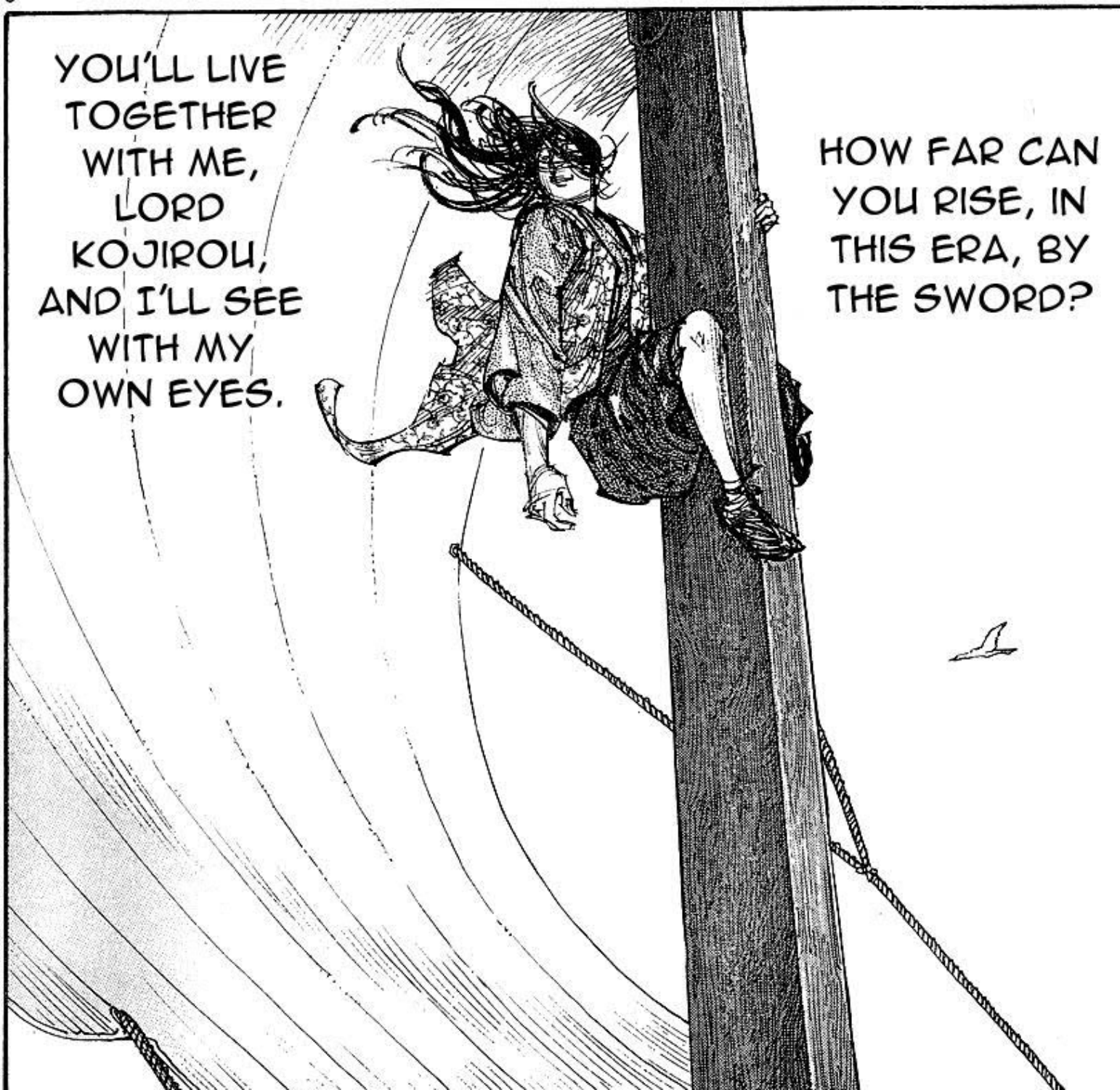
AAA
AAA
AAH!
AA
AA
AH!
stu-
pid
...

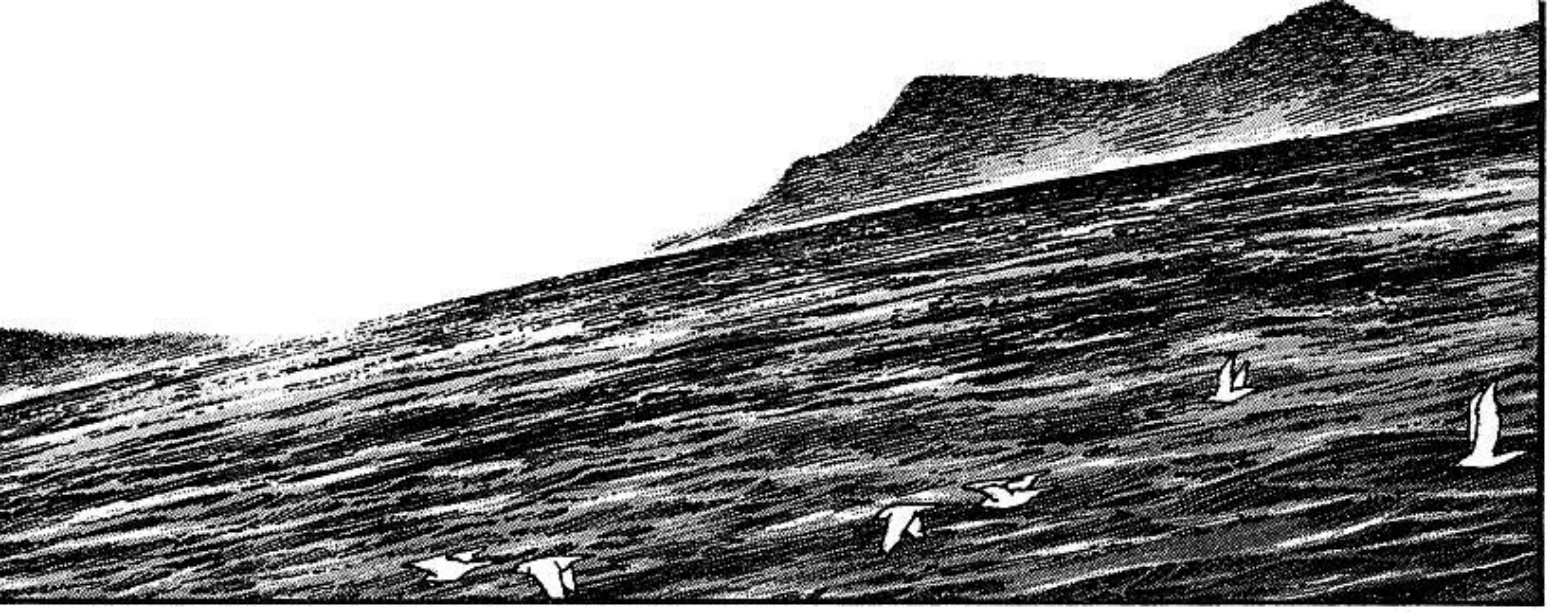
6
haa
haa
haa
haa
I
VOMITED
....
WHAT
DID
YOU
DO!?

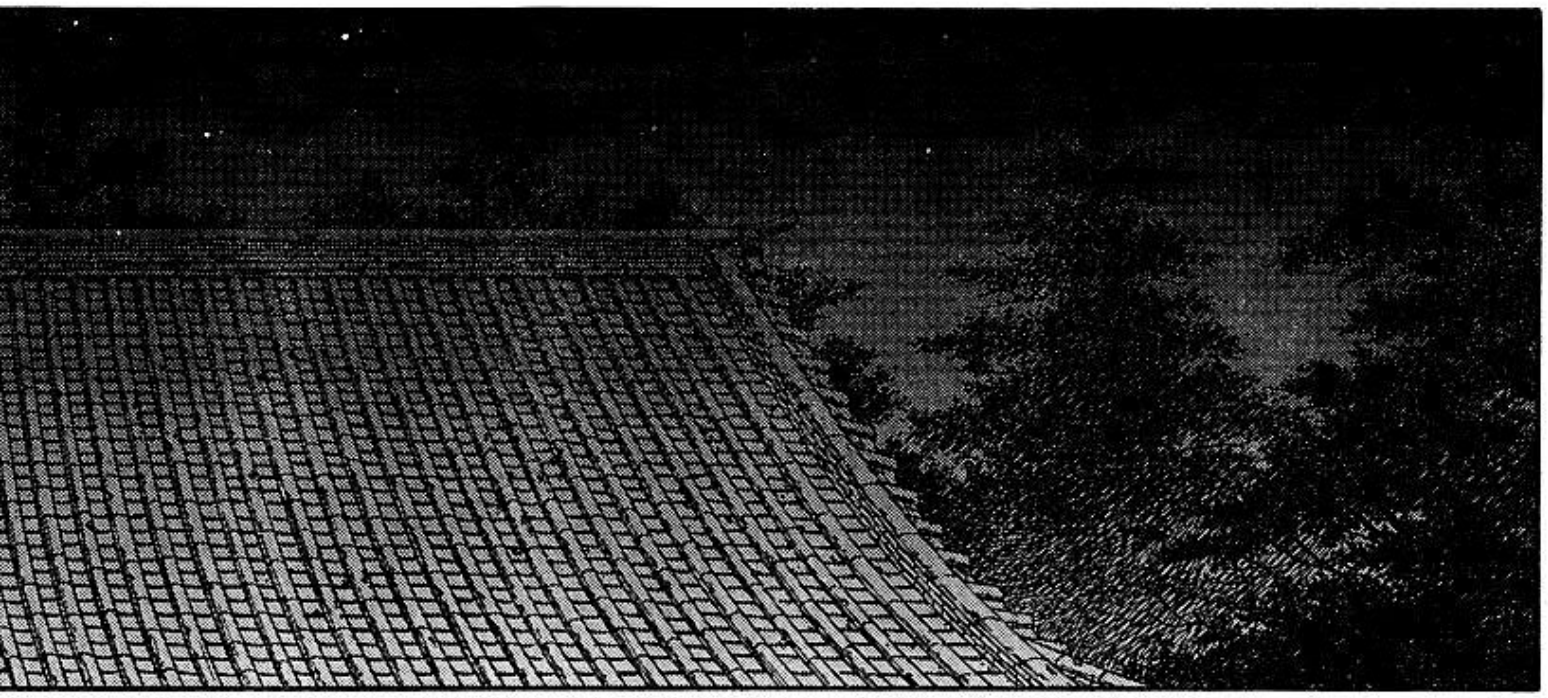

haa
haa
haa
haa
I ABANDONED THE WAY OF THE SWORD, RELUCTANTLY ...
haa
SILENTLY, I--... EVERYTHING ...
ギシ
ギシ
HERE ...
!!
haa
haa

THAT IS, TO LIVE FOR THE SWORD... THAT MAN ...
YOU HAVE TO ACCOMPLISH IT FOR YOURSELF, RIGHT? THE FACTS OF A DREAM ...
AH
YOU SHOULDN'T CLIMB UP THERE!
WAIT A SECOND, SIR, PLEASE STOP THAT!

8


YOU'LL LIVE TOGETHER WITH ME, LORD KOJIROU, AND I'LL SEE WITH MY OWN EYES.
HOW FAR CAN YOU RISE, IN THIS ERA, BY THE SWORD?





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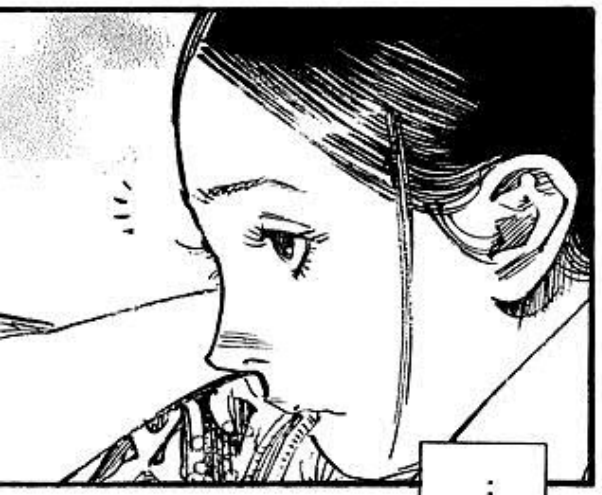
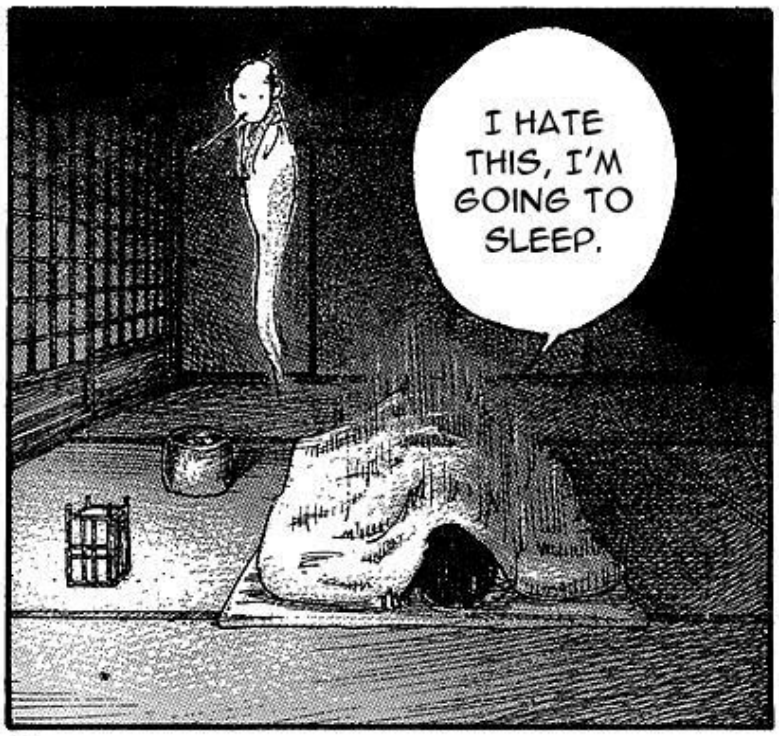


……!

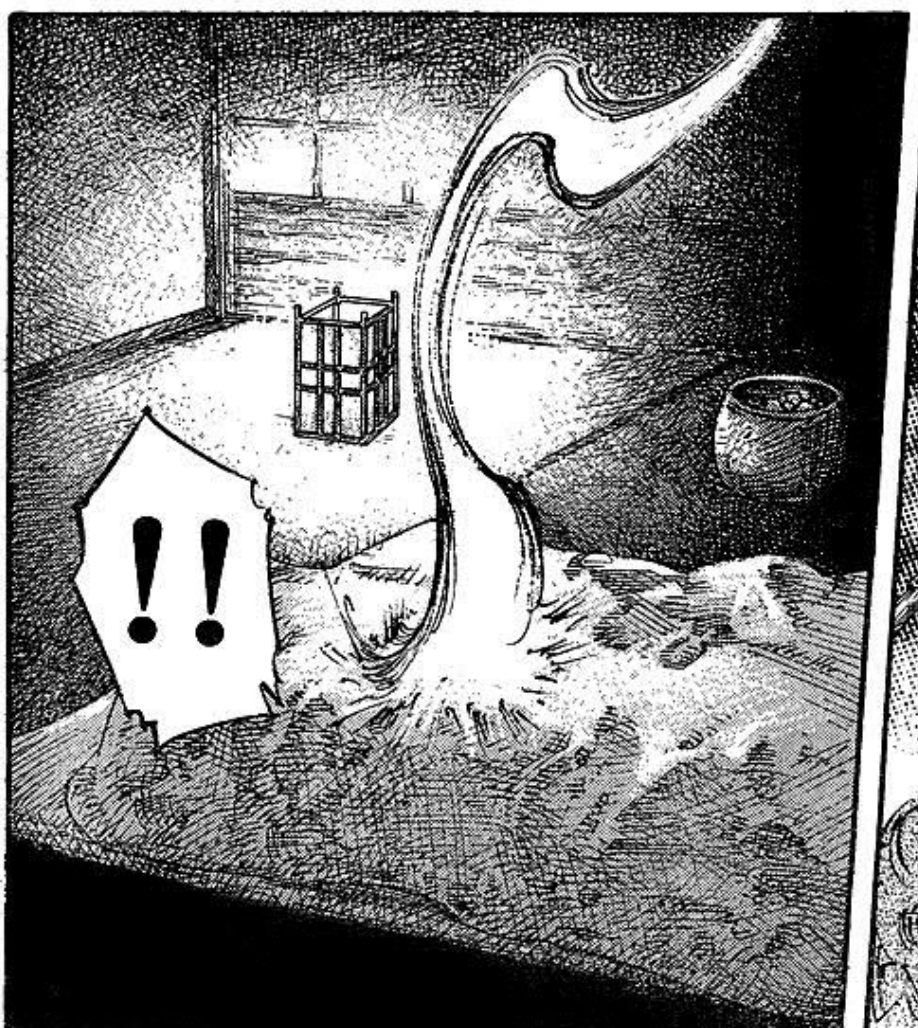
A SWEET SCENT …

A FISHY SMELL ...
he still appeared...

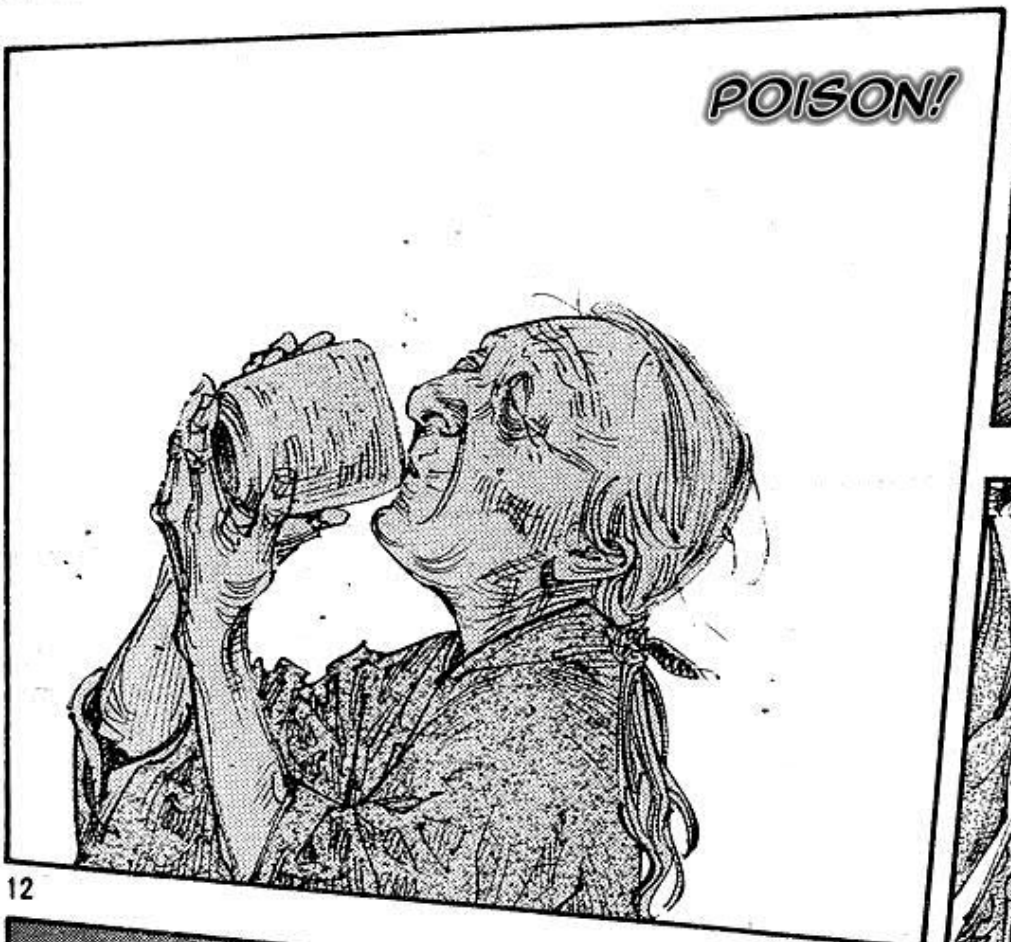

I HATE THIS, I'M GOING TO SLEEP.

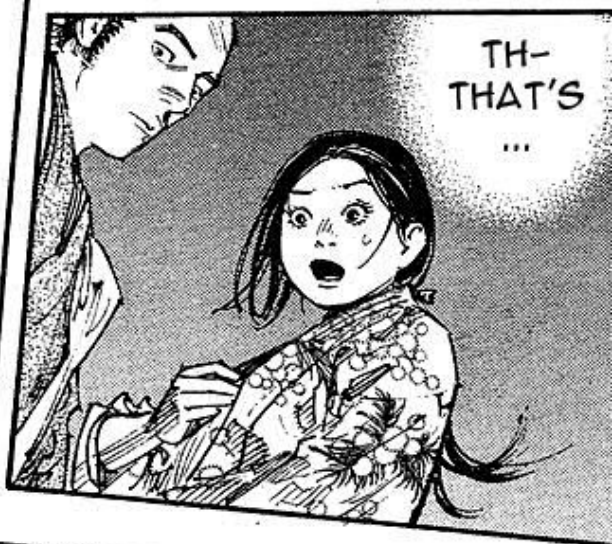
I'M NOT HUMORING THE GHOST ANY MORE THAN THIS!
are you sure?

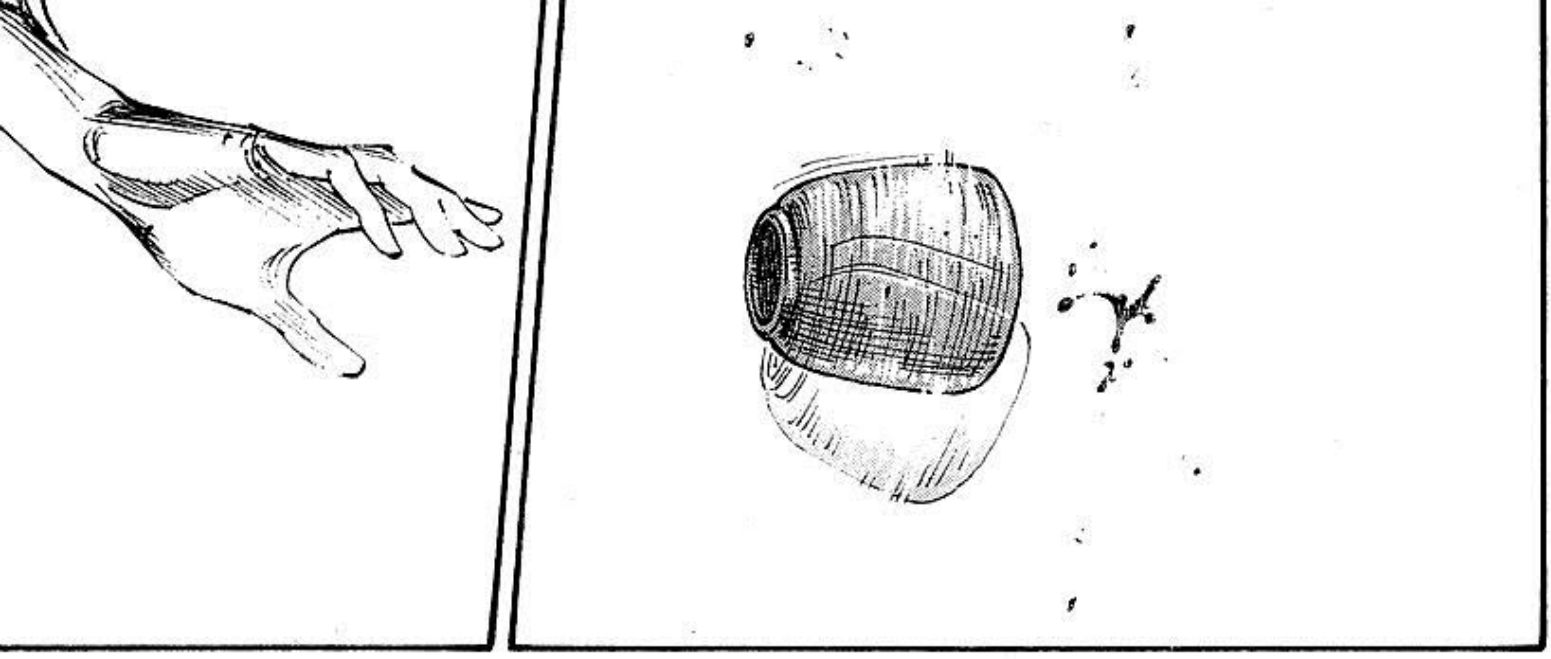
OTSUU, COME WITH ME.
HA?

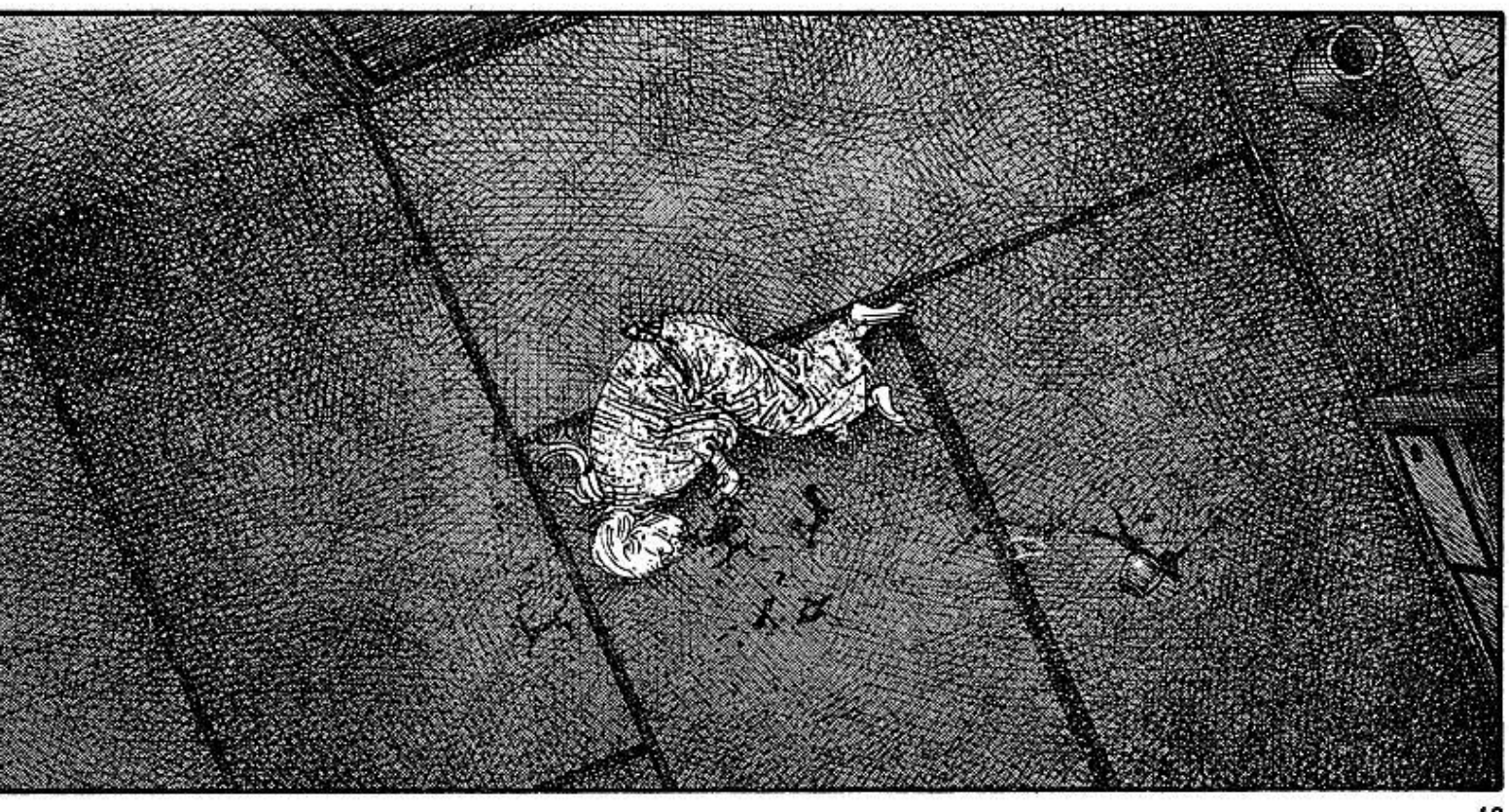

!!

.....


POISON!

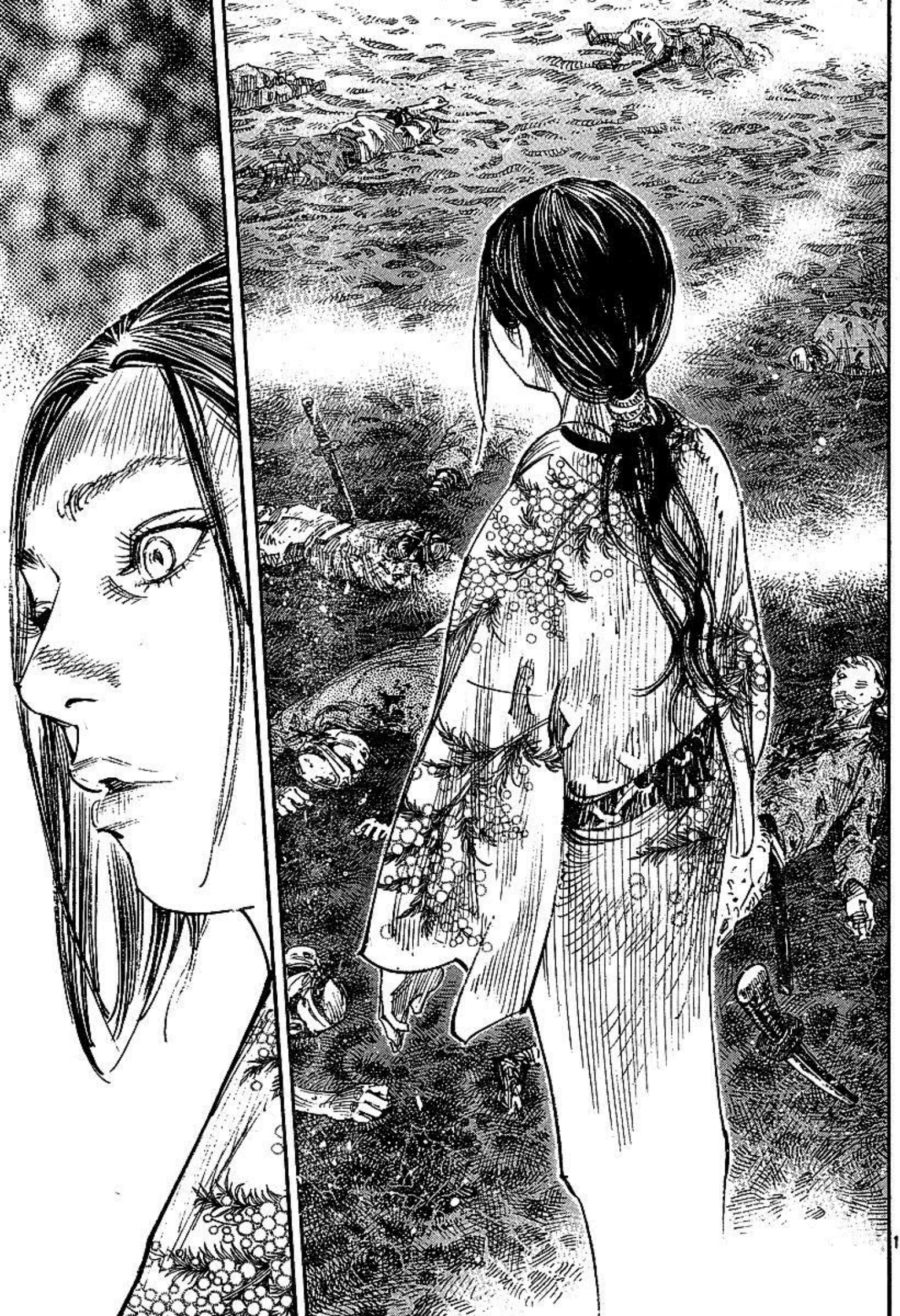

TH-
THAT'S
...





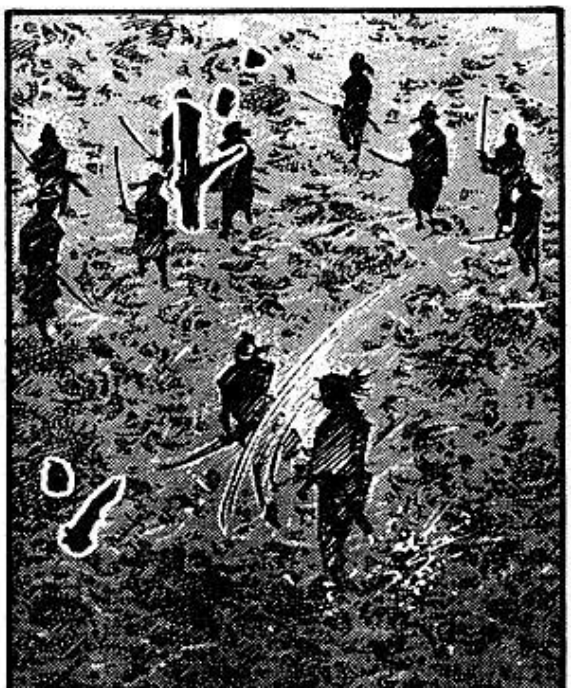
MO-
THER
...
WAIT A
SECOND!
WHERE
AM I?

!



I AM ONE OF THE TEN BLADES OF THE YOSHI-OKA!
I, HORIKAWA YOSHIBEE, STAND BEFORE YOU!

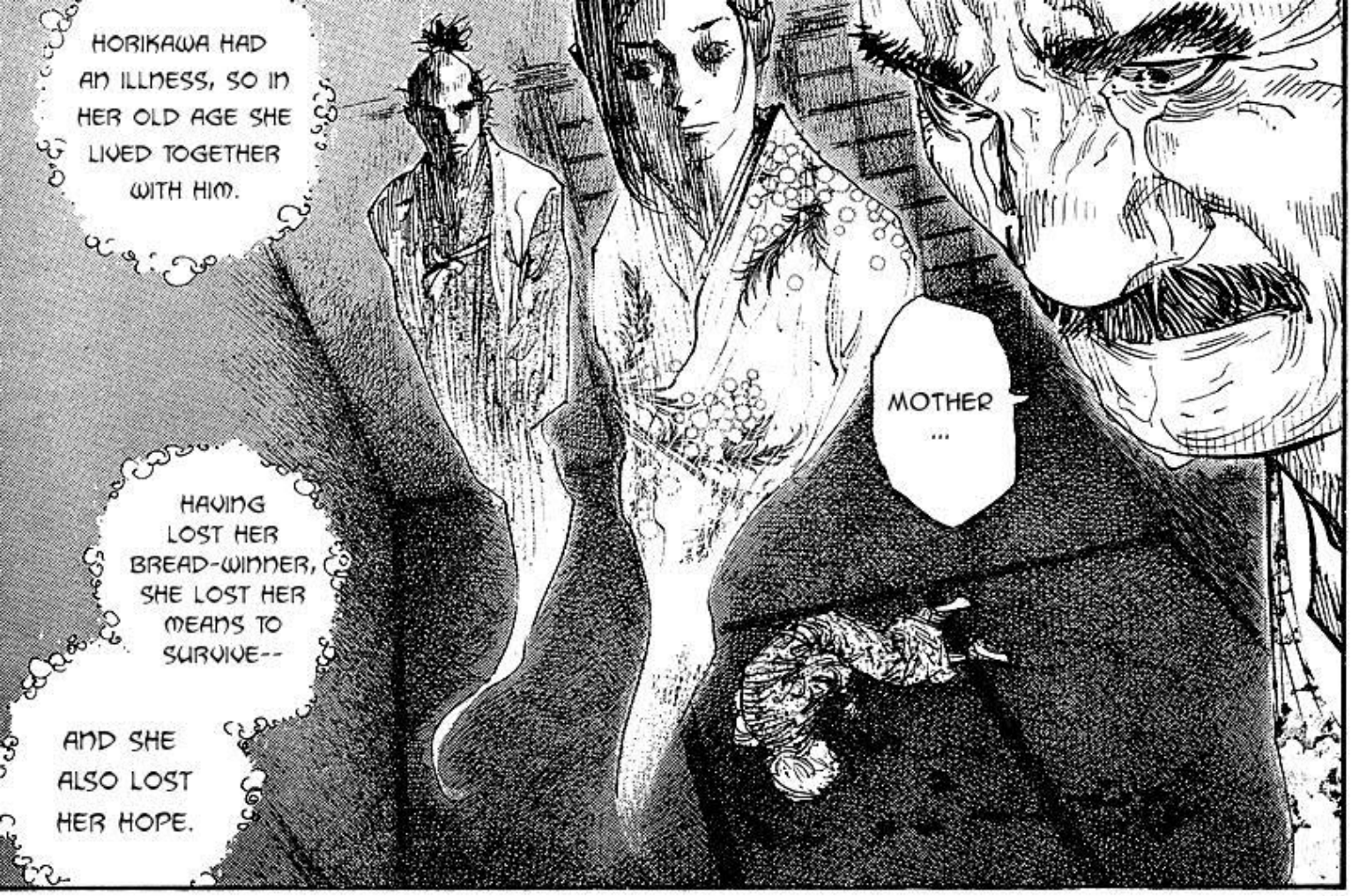
DON'T BE SO SURE!
SPREAD OUT AND SURR-OUND HIM!



HA
HA
?
!
HA
HA
blood?
HA
HA
?

HA
HA
HA
HIS BACK, RIGHT THERE ...
...

18


HORIKAWA HAD AN ILLNESS, SO IN HER OLD AGE SHE LIVED TOGETHER WITH HIM.
MOTHER ...
HAVING LOST HER BREAD-WINNER, SHE LOST HER MEANS TO SURVIVE--
AND SHE ALSO LOST HER HOPE.

NOW THEN, LET US GO TO THE NEXT HOUSE.
IT HAS LOST A YOUNG HUSBAND. THERE, THE WIDOW HAS HER RIGHT HAND ON THE NECK OF A SUCKLING CHILD...

WE MUST HURRY! THERE ARE 70 HOUSES TO VISIT!

THEY ALL PRAYED FOR FORTUNE LIKE MUSASHI'S; WE HAVE NO TIME TO SPARE.
『バガボンド』＃264は次号第13号に登場！

もはや、剣には生きられぬのか――。緊迫の単行本最新刊第29巻、絶賛発売中！
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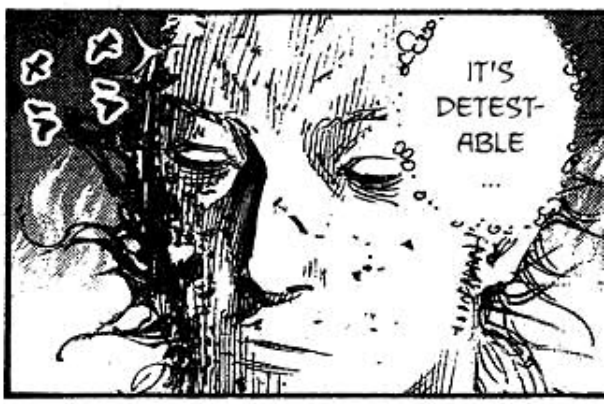
ONE OF THE YOSH-IOKA?
YOU ARE
.....
WERE PUT ON THE LINE, AND HE TOOK IT ALL AWAY.
CAN HE BE FORGIVEN?
THE LIVES OF 70 PEOPLE AND EVERYTHING ELSE

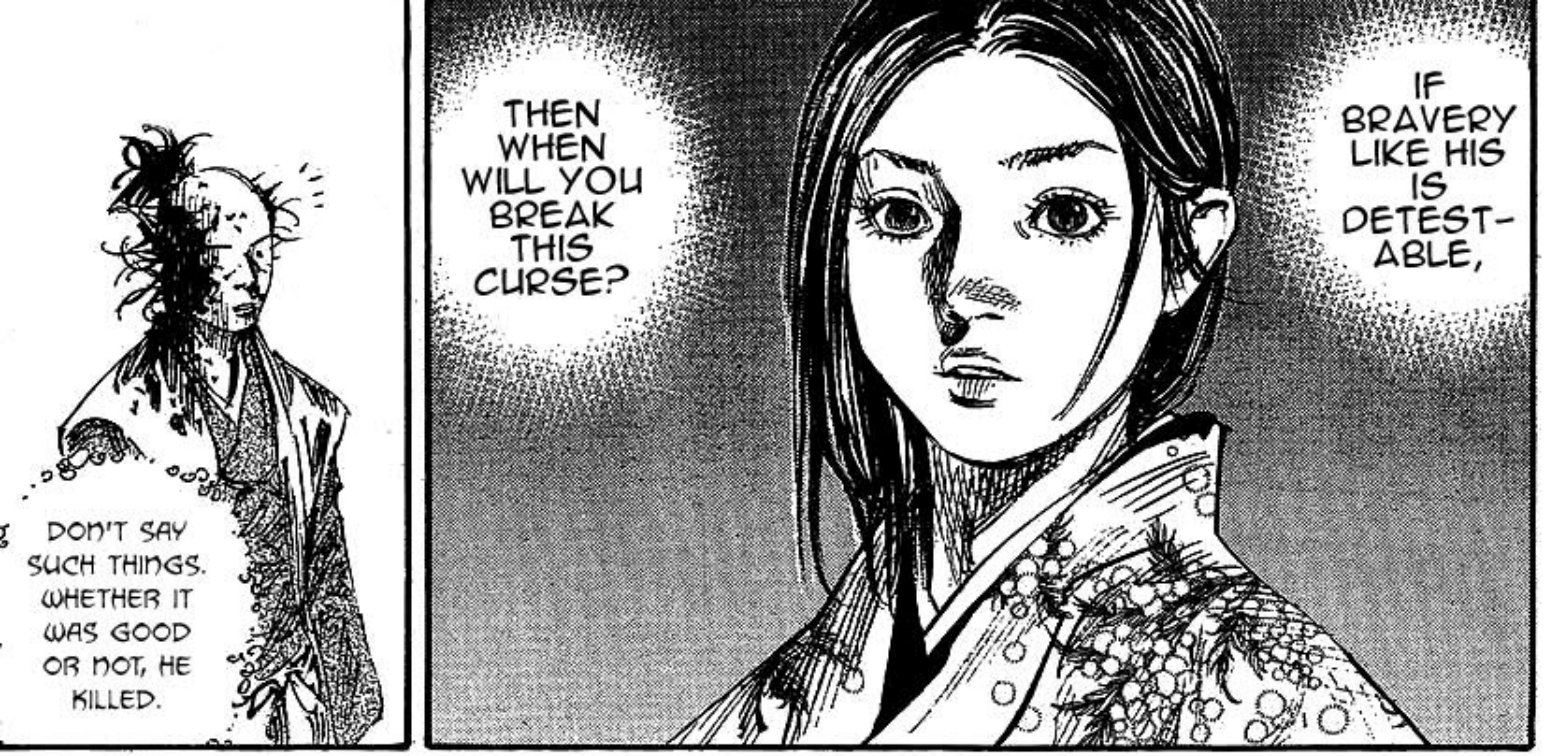
2

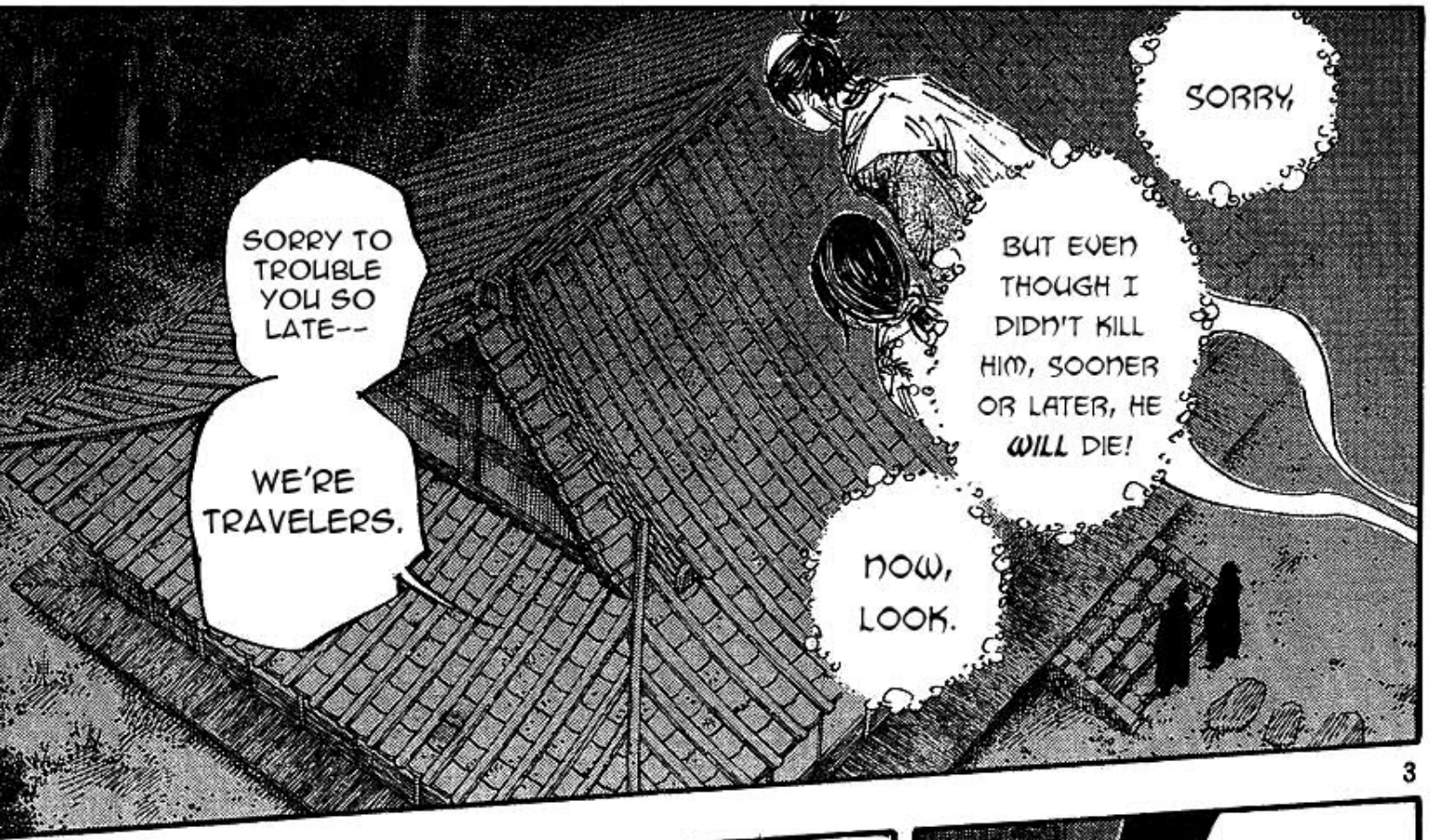
WHY ...
HAA
HAA
HAA


IT'S DETEST-ABLE ...

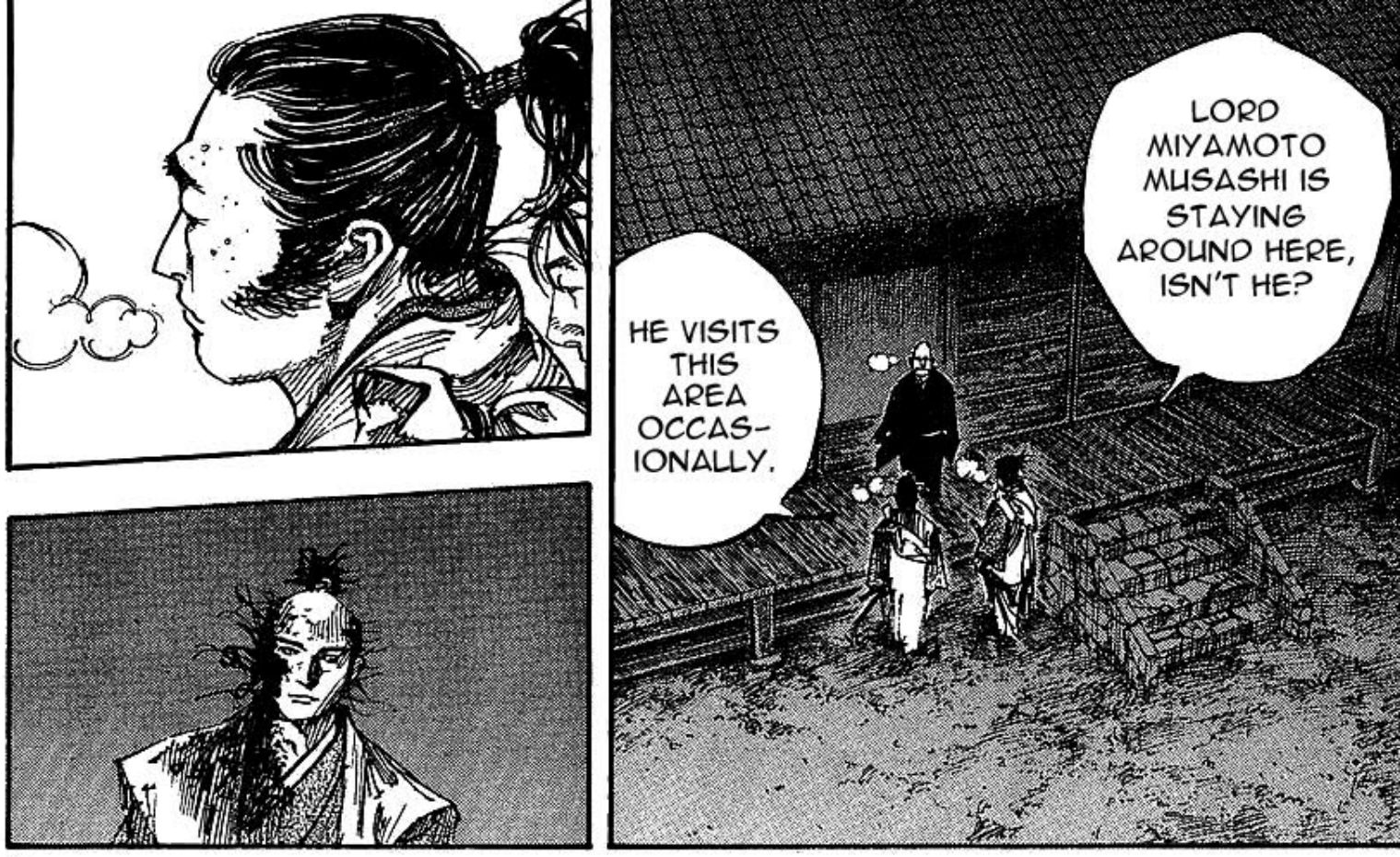
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?

.....


DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS. WHETHER IT WAS GOOD OR NOT, HE KILLED.
THEN WHEN WILL YOU BREAK THIS CURSE?
IF BRAVERY LIKE HIS IS DETEST-ABLE,


SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU SO LATE--
WE'RE TRAVELERS.
SORRY,
BUT EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T KILL HIM, SOONER OR LATER, HE WILL DIE!
NOW, LOOK.

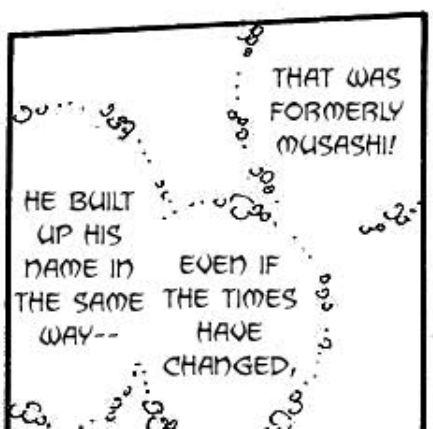
THEY'RE TRAVELING FOR COMBAT EXPERI-ENCE.
HOW EASY IT IS, TO BE LED DOWN THE WRONG PATH.
DO YOU HAVE LODGING FOR THE NIGHT?


LORD MIYAMOTO MUSASHI IS STAYING AROUND HERE, ISN'T HE?
HE VISITS THIS AREA OCCAS-IONALLY.

4

WE'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.

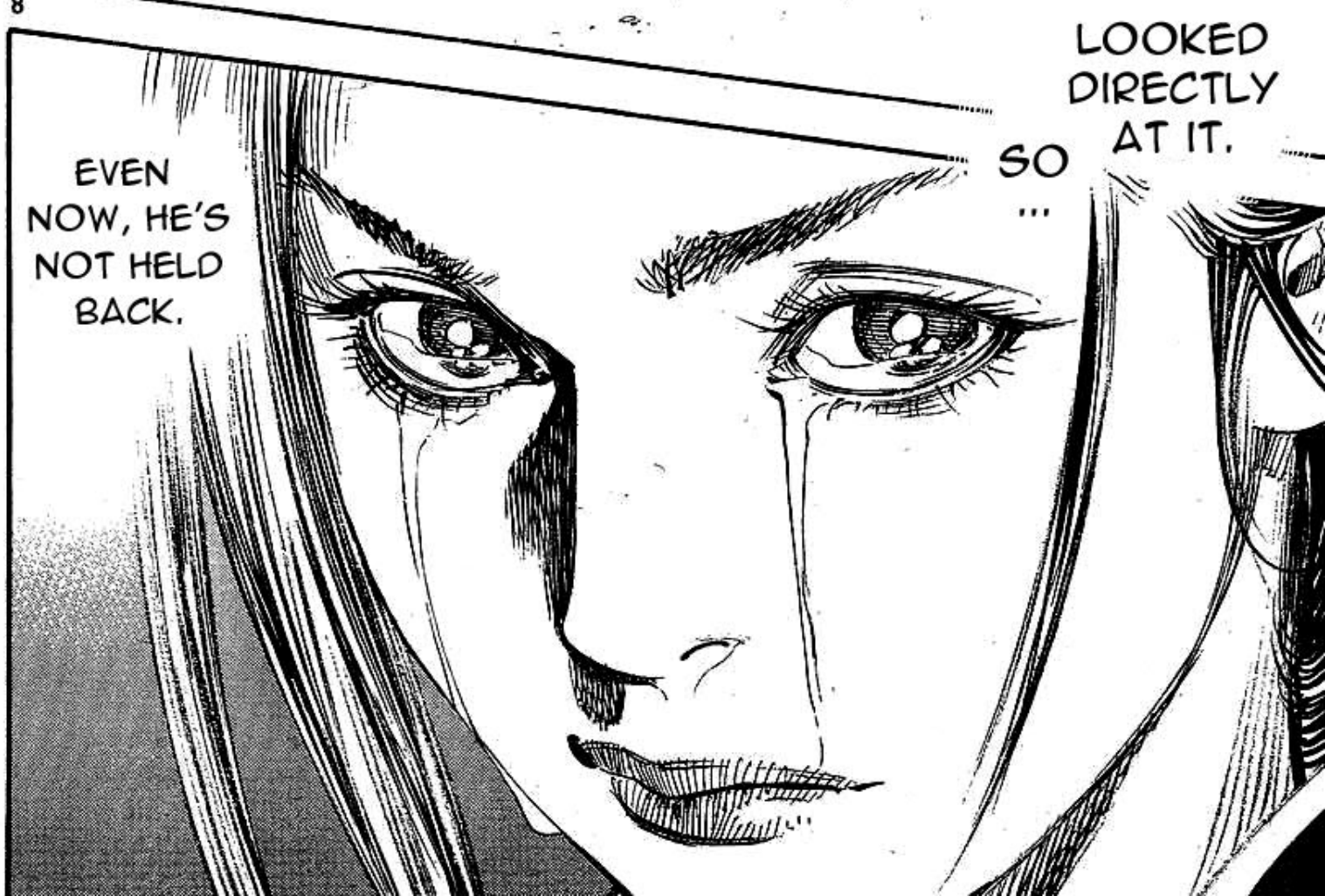
SUCH LENGTHS HE'S GONE TO, BUT STILL--
BY TEARING DOWN THE NAMES OF OTHERS.


HE BUILT UP HIS NAME IN THE SAME WAY--
EVEN IF THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED,
THAT WAS FORMERLY MUSASHI!

LIES!

IT'S INEVITABLE ... FOR ME, THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
HE'LL DIE!
6
IT LOOKS AS IF HE'S IN PAIN.
SEE, IT'S MUSASHI.
IT'S TOO MUCH TO ESCAPE FROM!
.....!?
7
EVEN VERY MUCH BEFORE THIS,
SINCE CHILD-HOOD ...

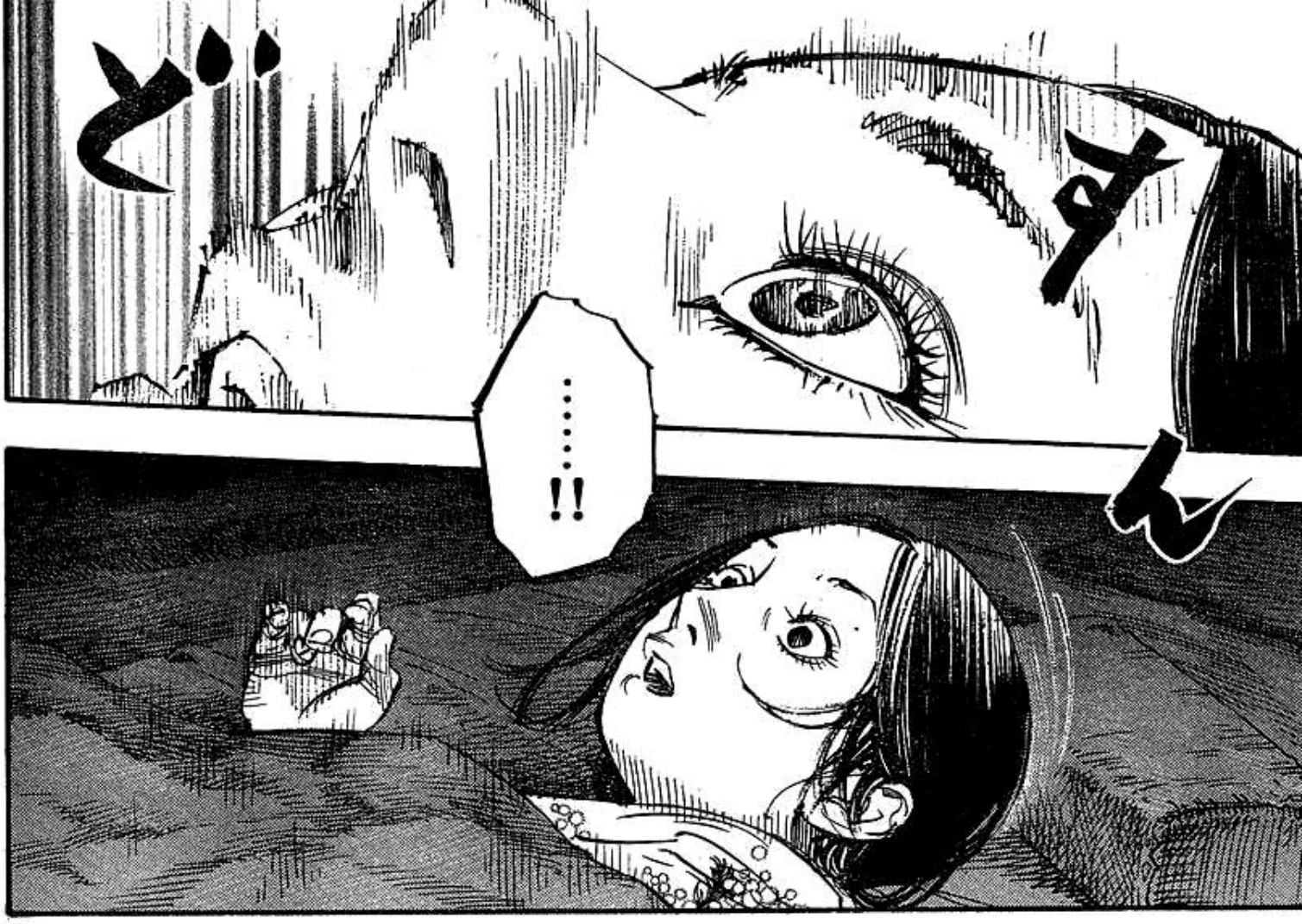
HE DIDN'T FEAR DEATH, BUT


EVEN NOW, HE'S NOT HELD BACK.
SO ...
LOOKED DIRECTLY AT IT.

ABOUT YOU AND MUSASHI ...
GOOD OR NOT ...
AAAH!! WAIT, DON'T JUST READ MY MIND WHENEVER YOU LIKE!

IT'S GOOD
ooo

.....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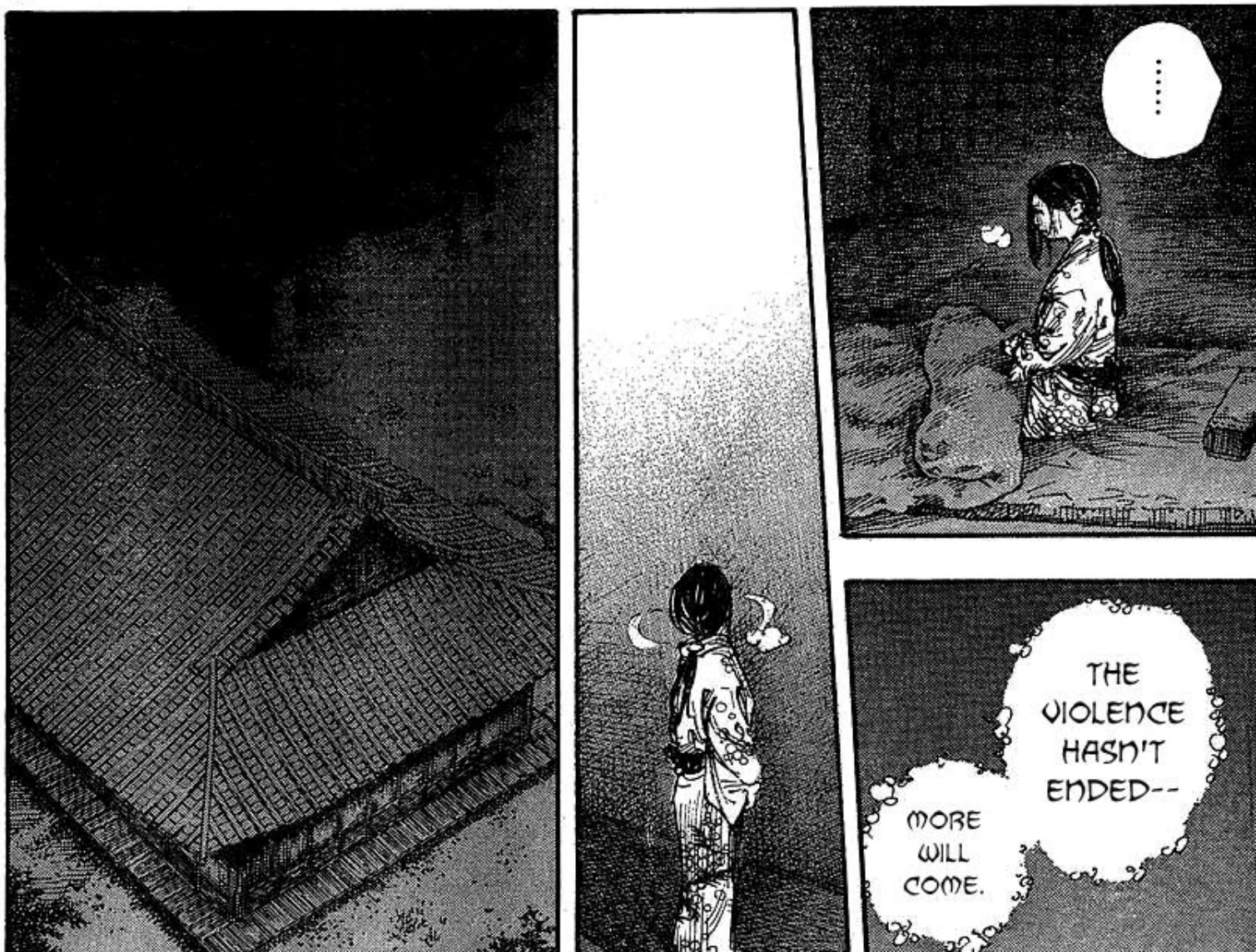
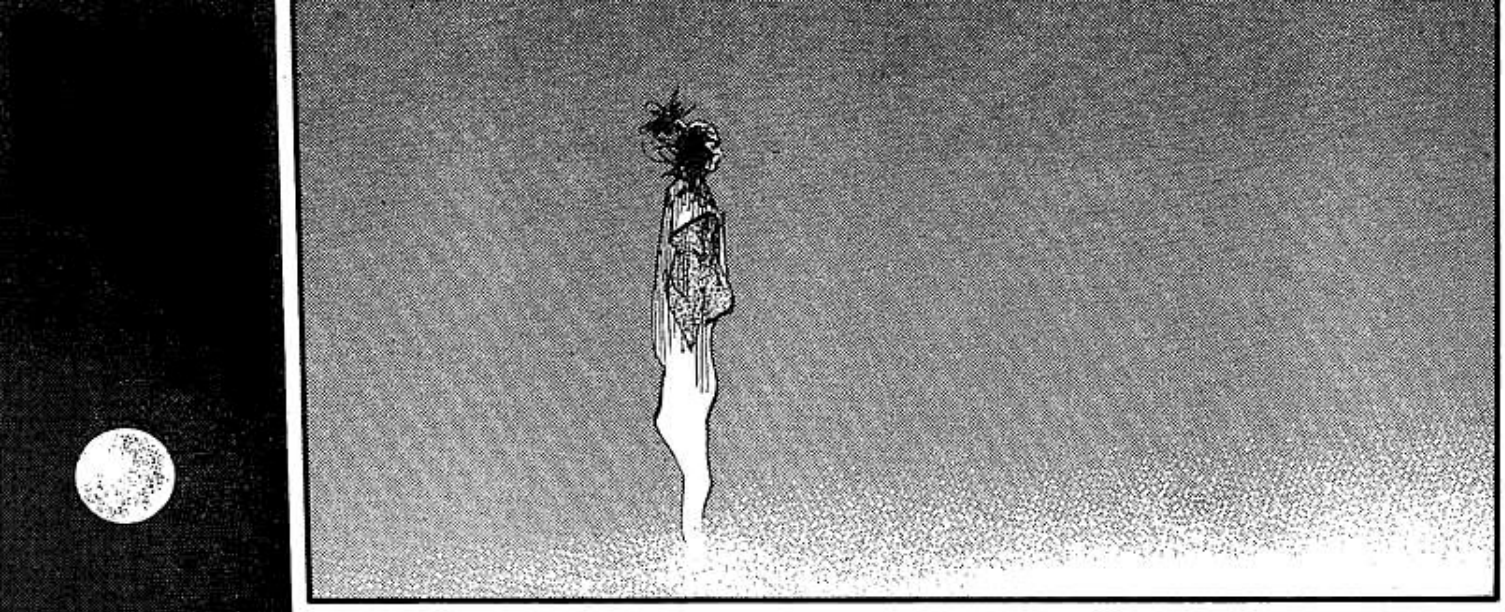
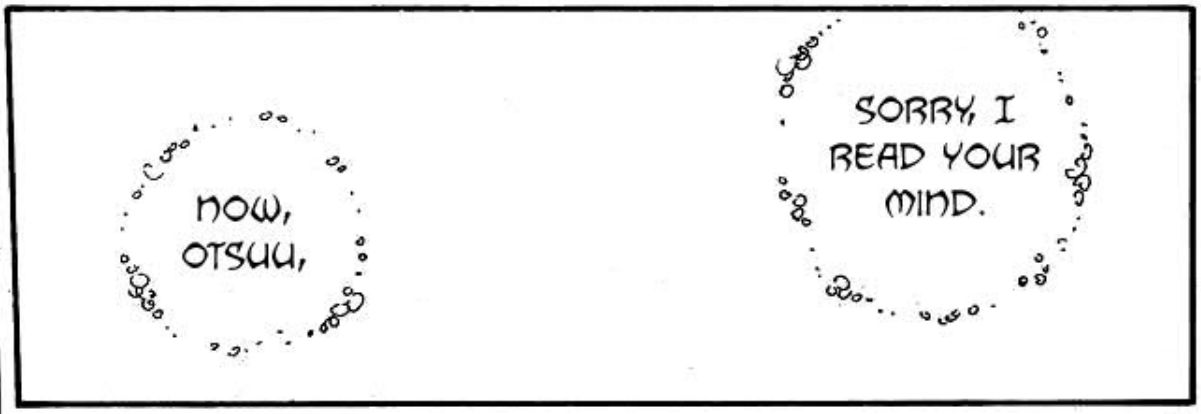
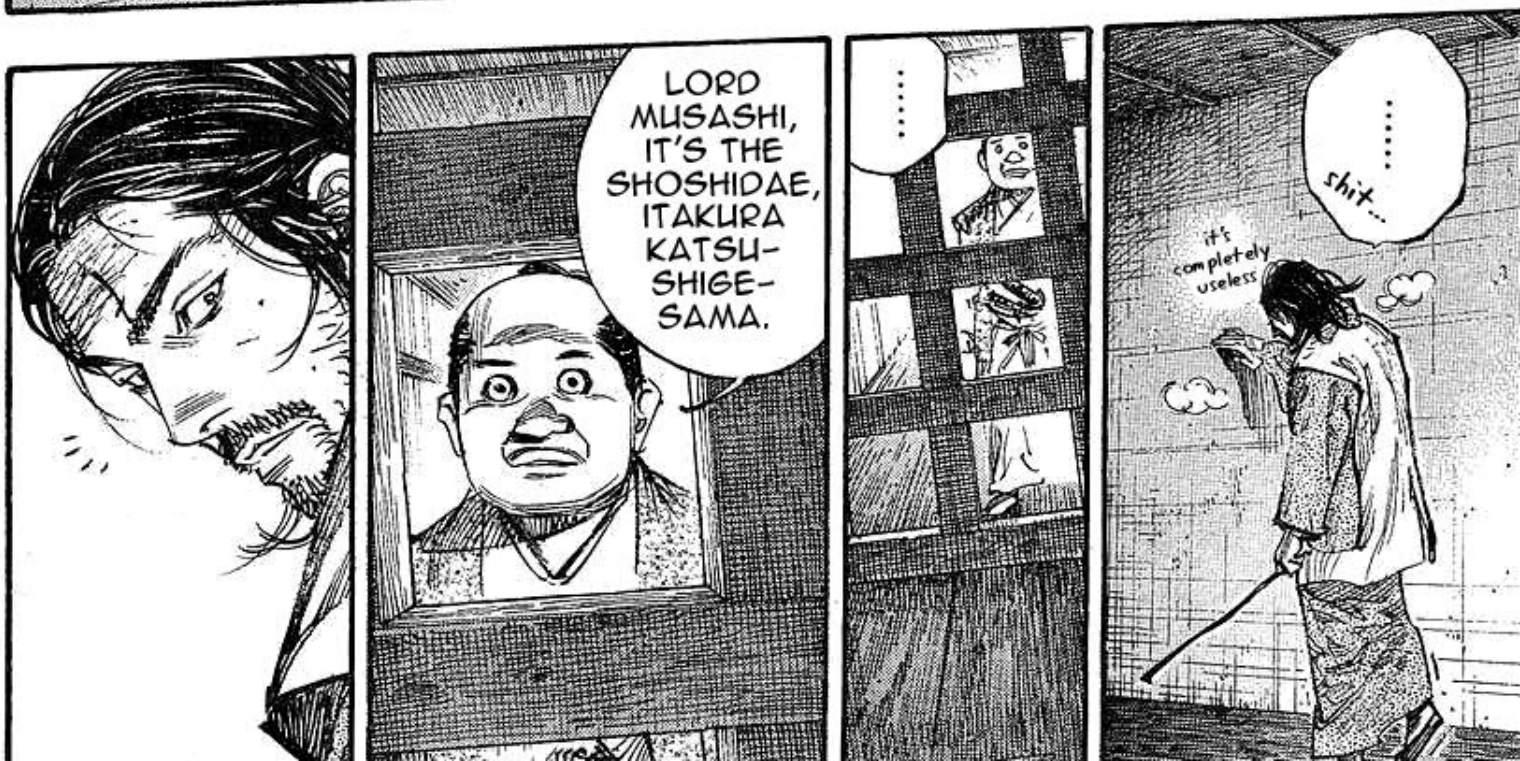

……
THE VIOLENCE HASN'T ENDED--
MORE WILL COME.

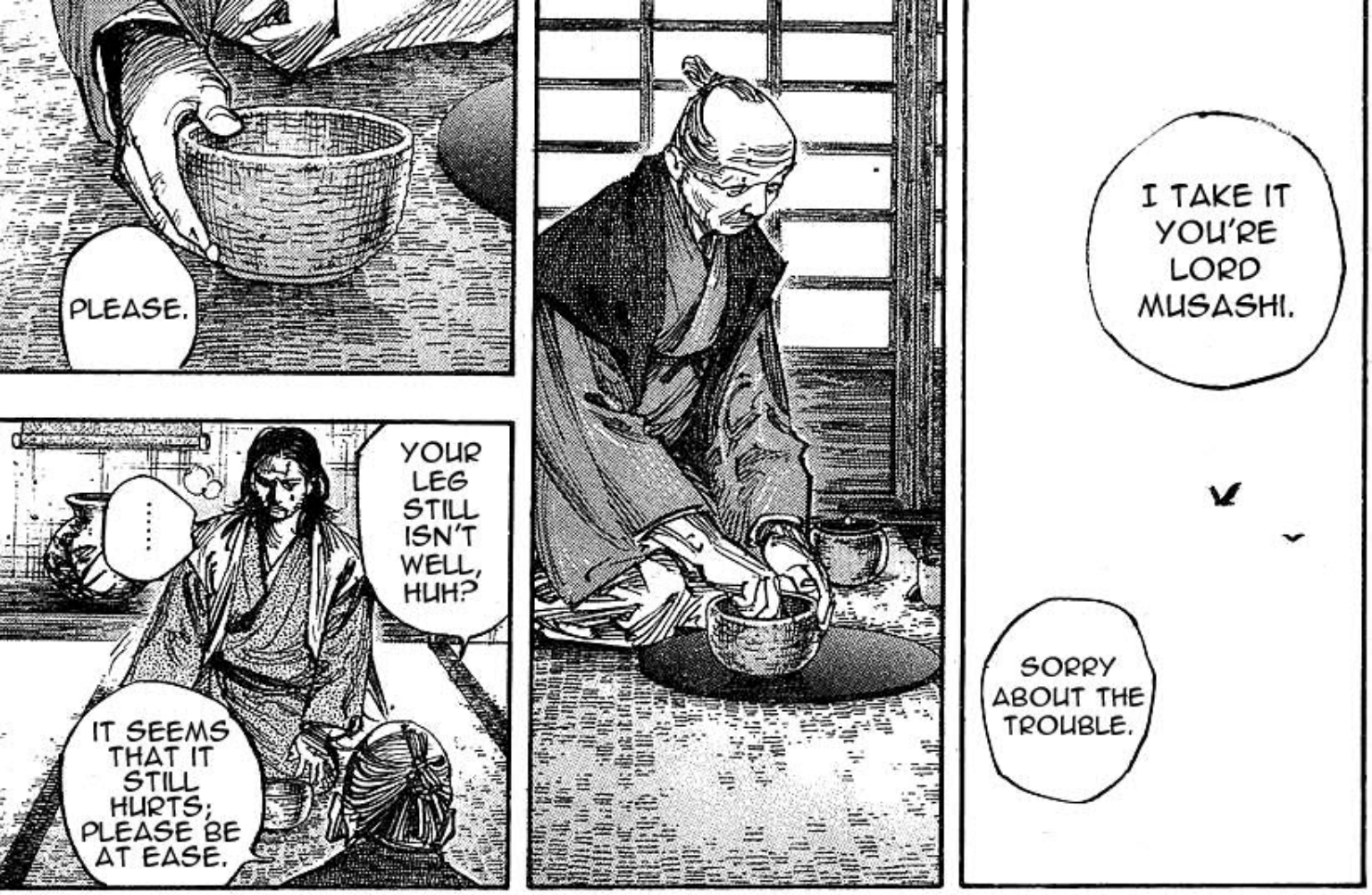



SORRY, I READ YOUR MIND.
NOW, OTSUU,

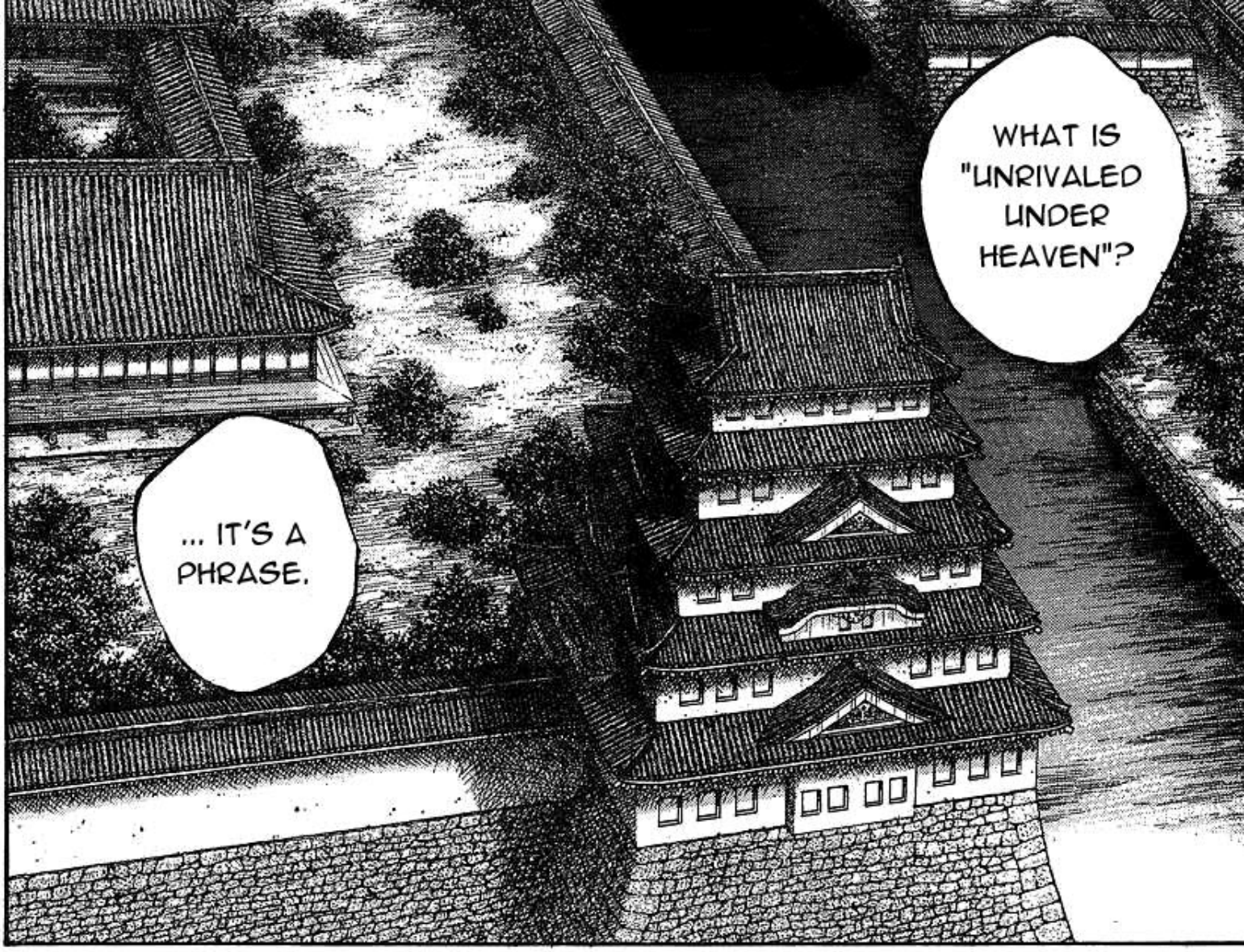
YOU'VE BEEN ABANDONED-- THAT MAN WON'T GIVE UP HIS ASPIRATIONS. IT CAN'T BE HELPED, CAN IT?

UNH!


LORD MUSASHI, IT'S THE SHOSHIDAE, ITAKURA KATSU-SHIGE-SAMA.
.....
.....
shit...
it's completely useless

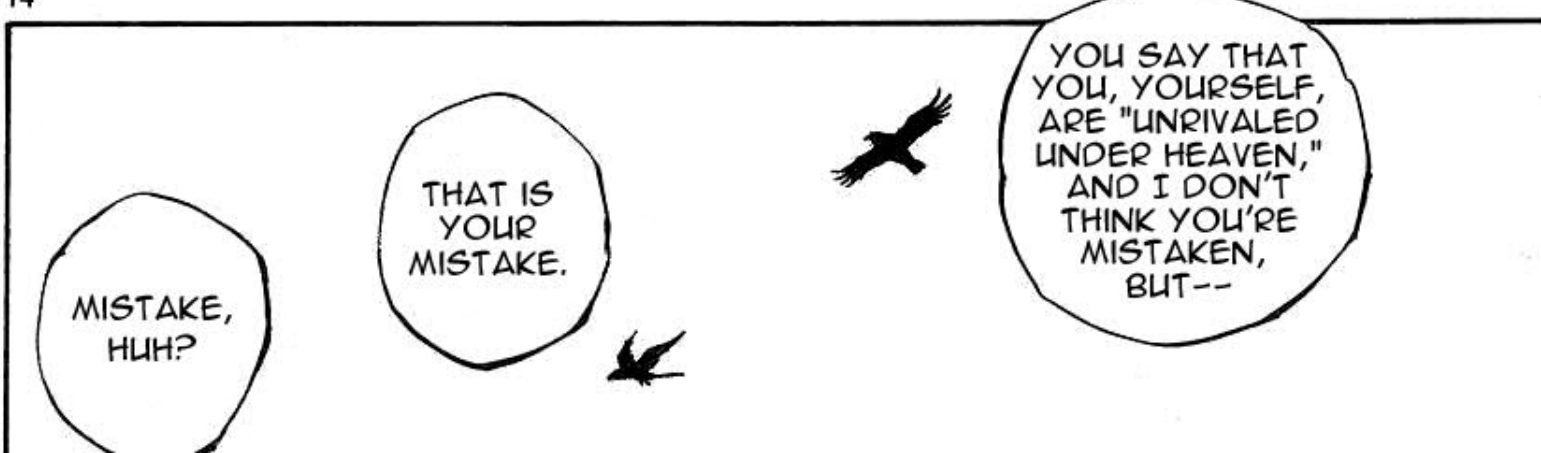

PLEASE.
YOUR LEG STILL ISN'T WELL, HUH?
.....
IT SEEMS THAT IT STILL HURTS; PLEASE BE AT EASE.
I TAKE IT YOU'RE LORD MUSASHI.
SORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLE.

I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU,
MUSASHI.


WHAT IS "UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN"?
... IT'S A PHRASE.

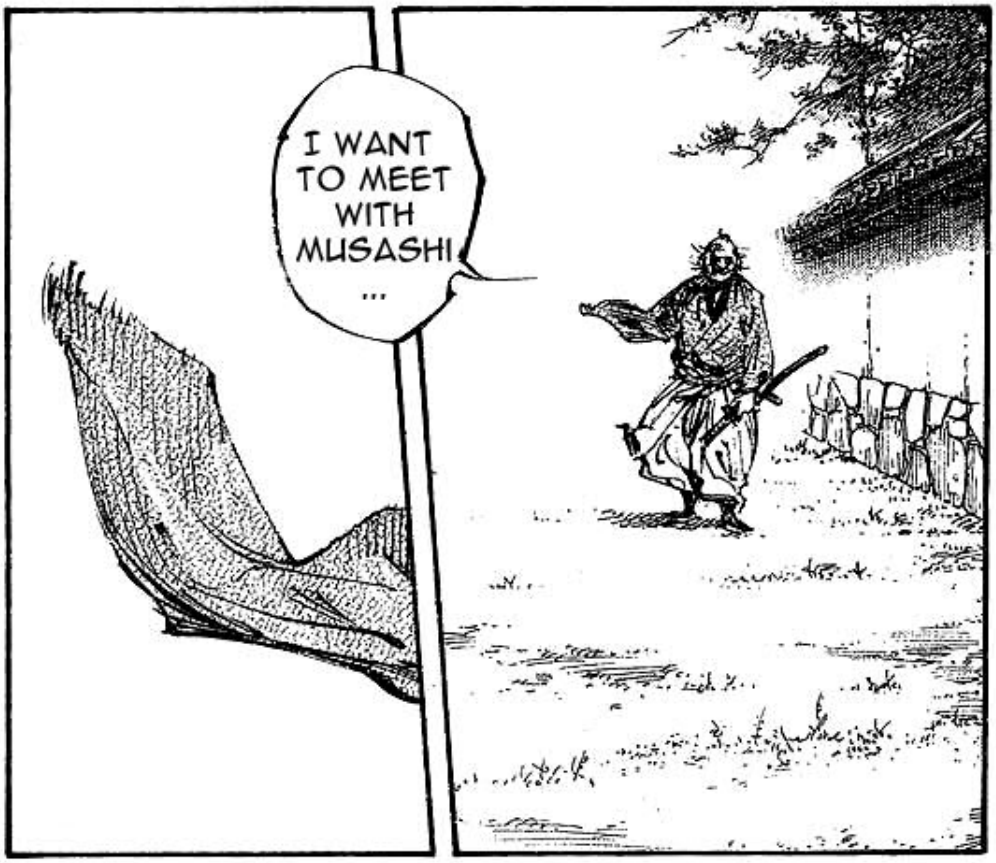
... OH?
WELL, NOW,

JUST A PHRASE.

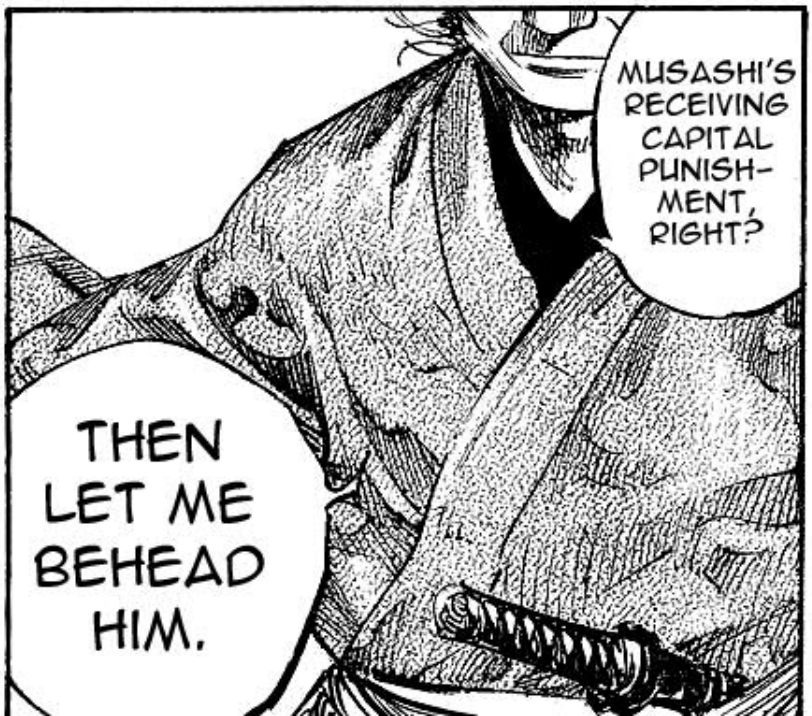

YOU SAY THAT YOU, YOURSELF, ARE "UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN," AND I DON'T THINK YOU'RE MISTAKEN, BUT--
THAT IS YOUR MISTAKE.
MISTAKE, HUH?

IT'S LIKE A HEAT HAZE ...
IF YOU GET CLOSE, IT VANISHES AND IS GONE.

HM...?
WHAT?

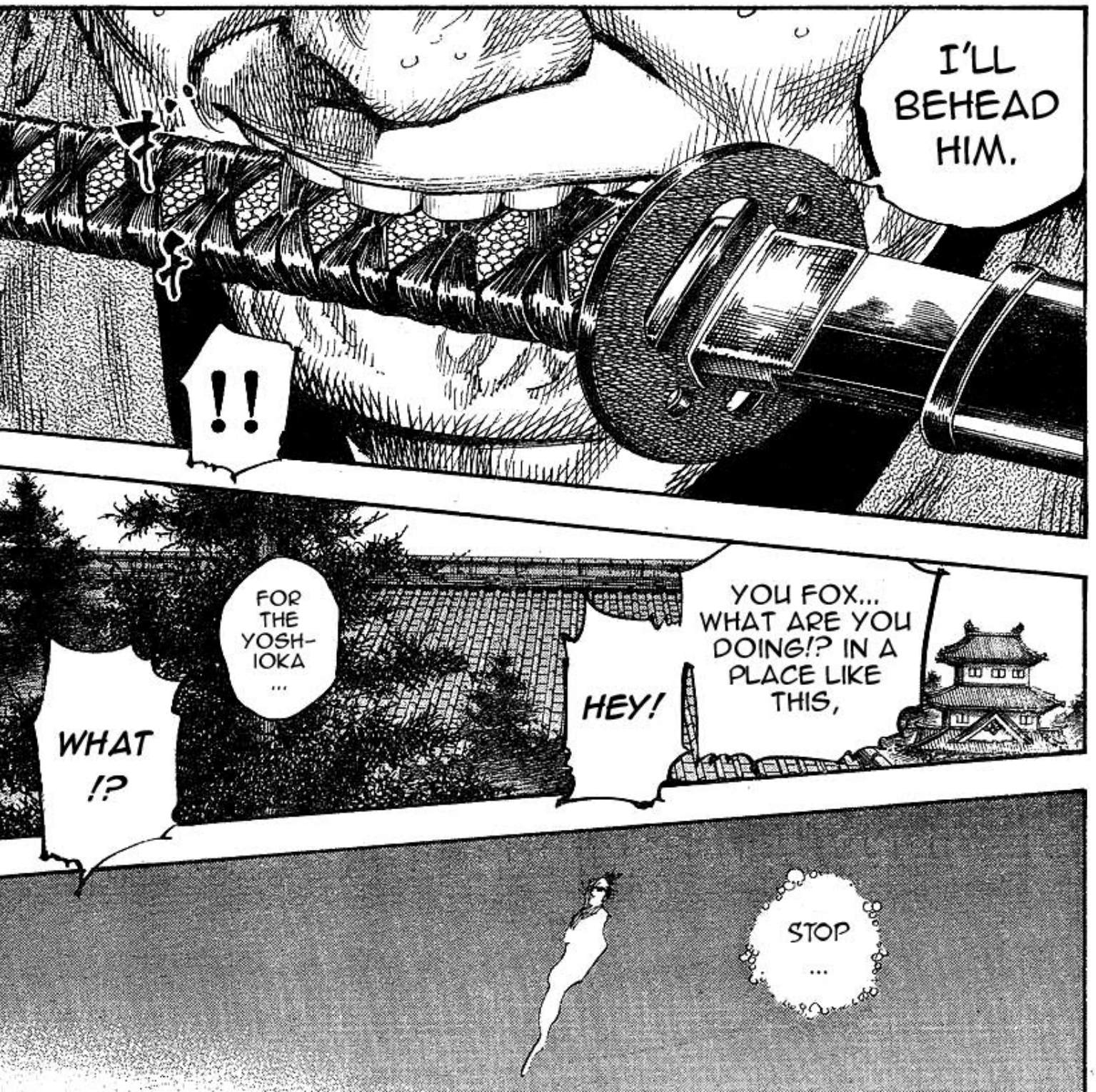

I WANT TO MEET WITH MUSASHI ...

HEY, DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


MUSASHI'S RECEIVING CAPITAL PUNISH-MENT, RIGHT?
THEN LET ME BEHEAD HIM.

A ONE-ARMED MAN...
MUS-ASHI?
FIRST OFF, WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BASTARD?

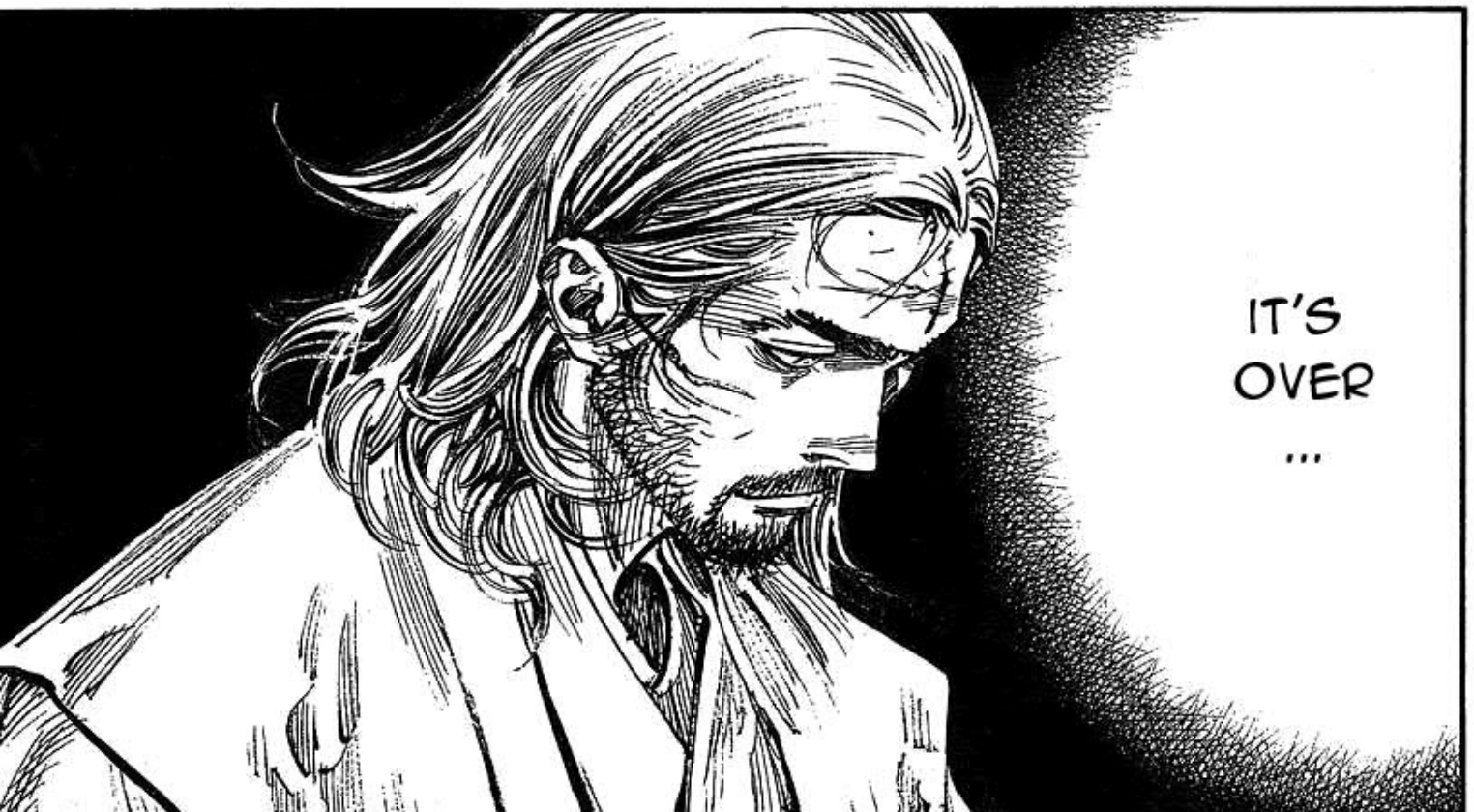
EVEN IF IT'S NOT BY CHANCE--
NO, EVEN BETTER BECAUSE IT'S NOT,
!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
.....!?


I'LL BEHEAD HIM.
!!
FOR THE YOSH-IOKA ...
WHAT !?
HEY!
YOU FOX... WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? IN A PLACE LIKE THIS,
STOP ...

STOP, OOTAGURO ...
KU...
WE JUST MET BY CHANCE, BY CHANCE!
YOU'RE FACING OOTAGURO HYOUSUKE OF THE TEN SWORDS OF YOSHIOKA!
MUS-ASHI!!

TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND THE ONE THING I NEEDED. IT IS SAID,
THAT IF YOU ARE TRYING TO BE THE FASTEST, THEN YOU'LL GET THERE TOO EARLY AND YOU'RE TOO FAR OFF FOR IT TO COUNT.
IF YOU GET CLOSE, IT VANISHES AND IS GONE ...
A HEAT HAZE ...

UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN?
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE NOT...
A HEAT HAZE ...


IT'S OVER ...

THE HEAT HAZE WAS ALREADY WAVERING... DID I NOTICE?

NO, PERHAPS, SINCE THAT TIME,

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バガボンド

VAGABOND

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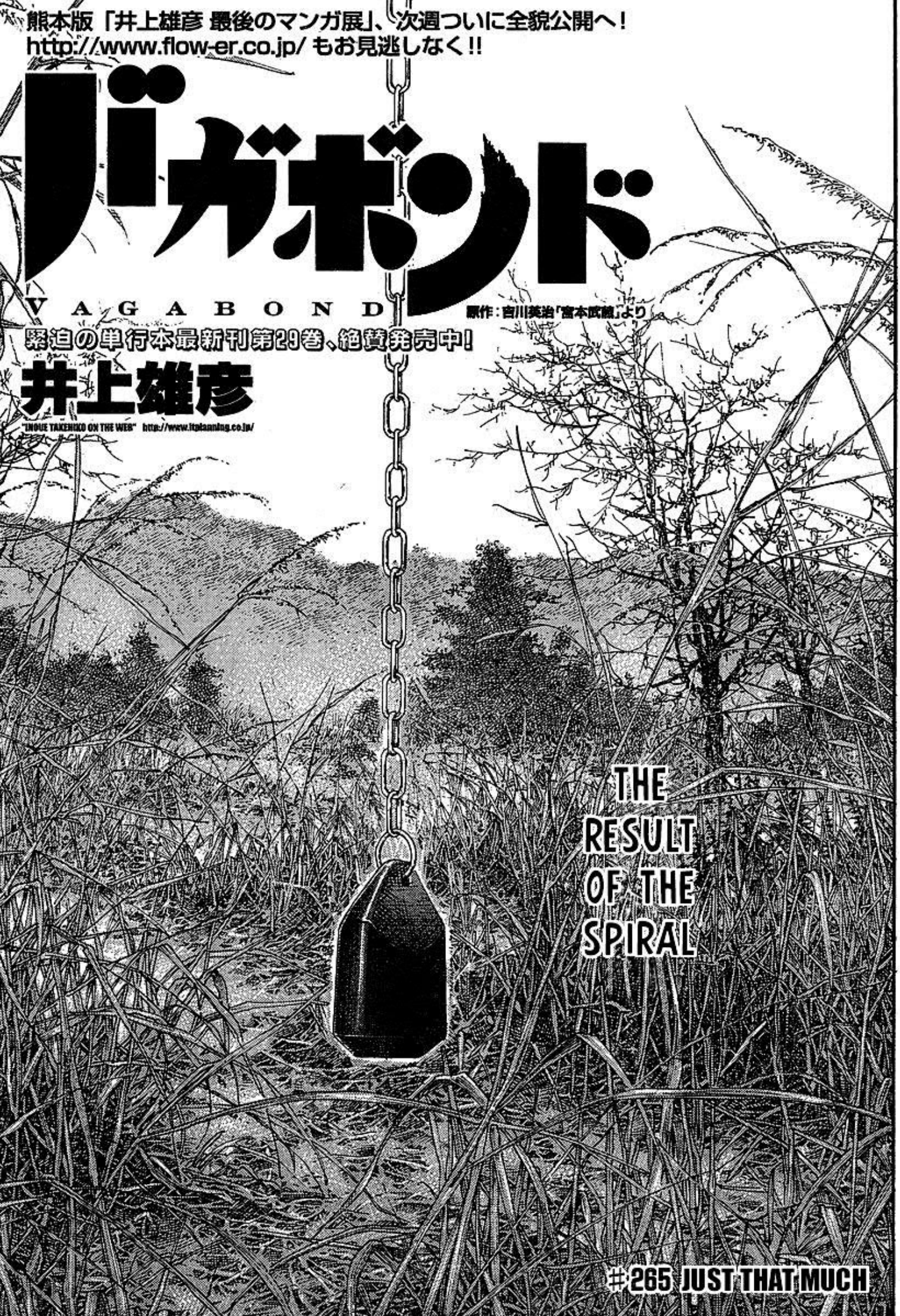
井上雄彦

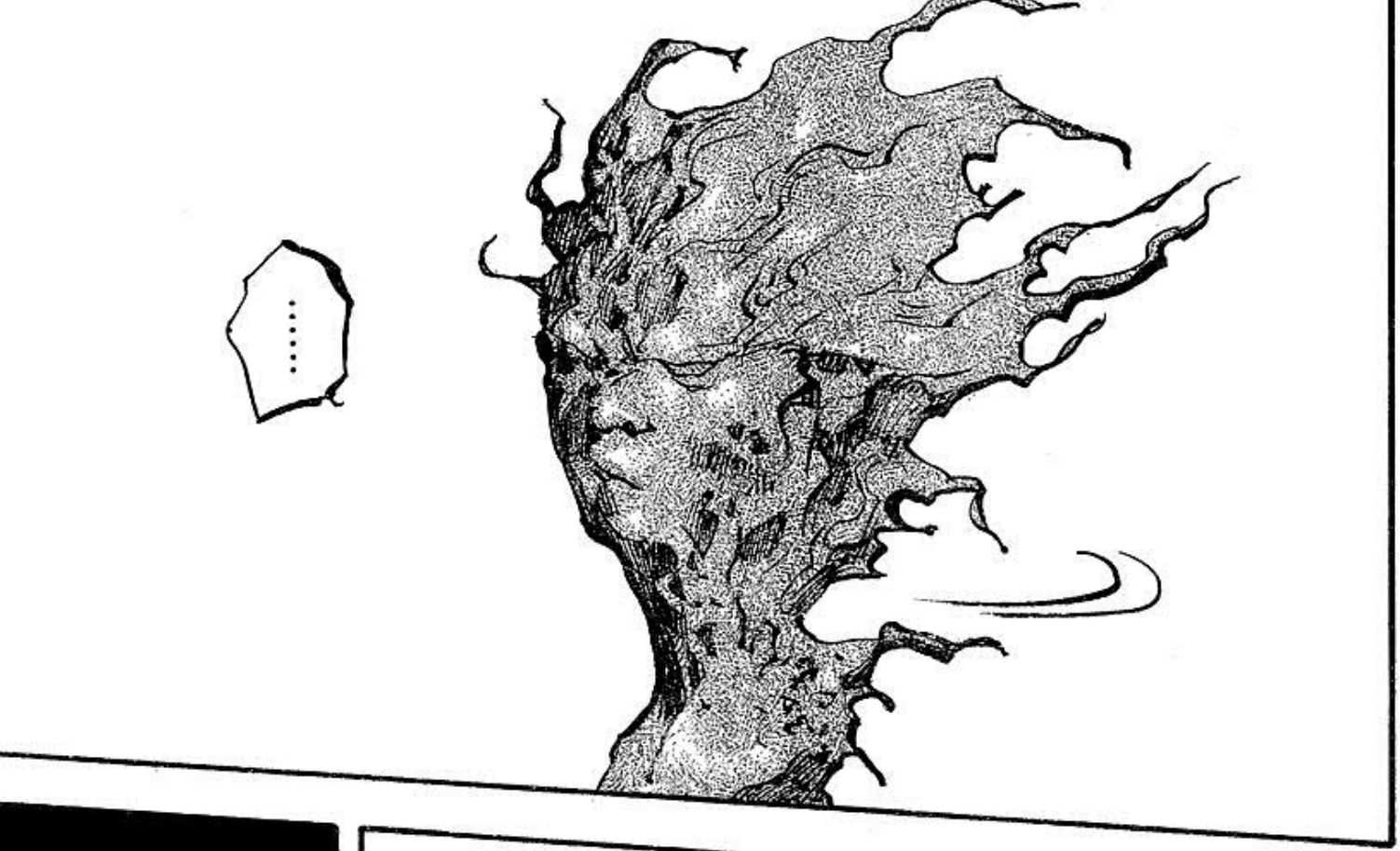
"INOUE TAKEHIKO ON THE WEB" http://www.itplanning.co.jp/



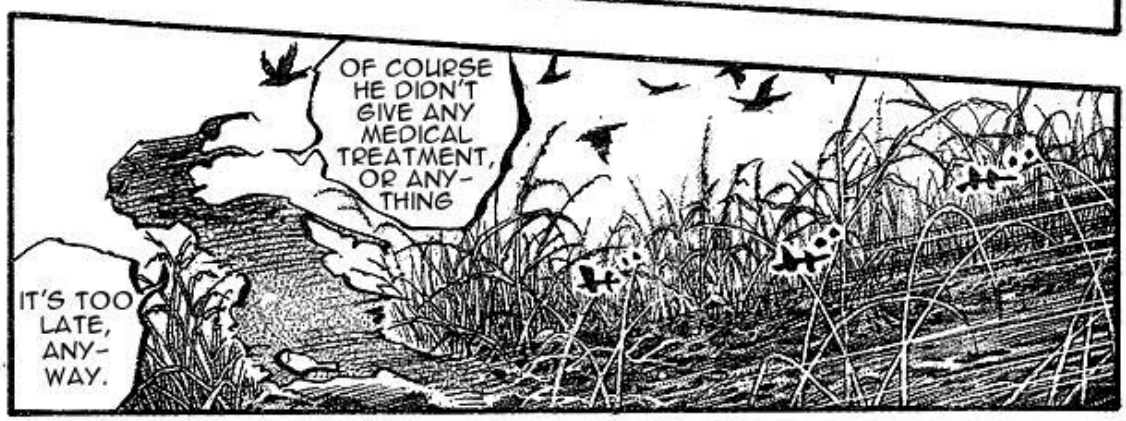
#265 JUST THAT MUCH

FROM THE SPIRAL OF KILLING,
I DESCEND

SAVE US ...
SAVE ME ...

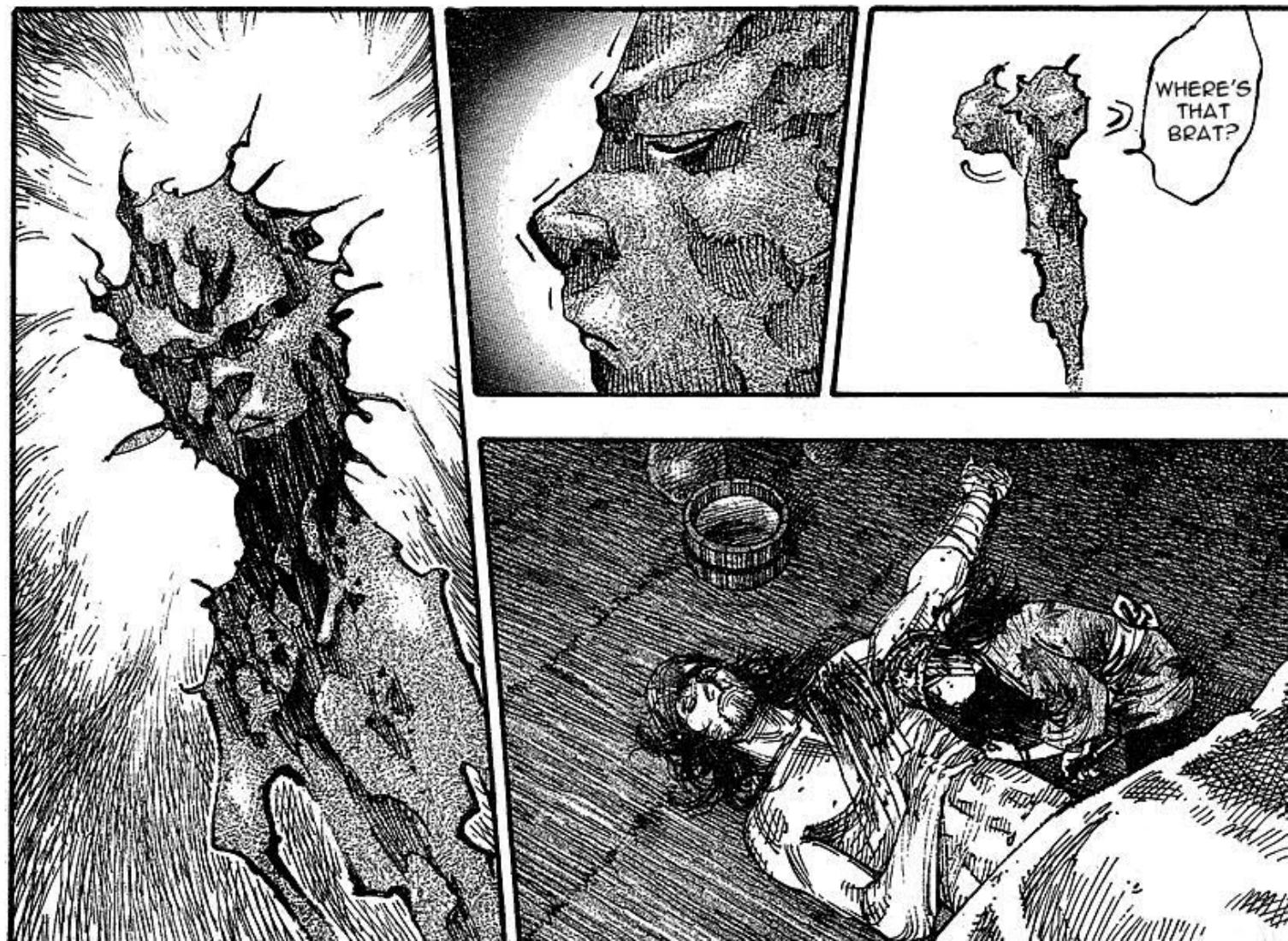


I'LL KILL HIM FOR YOU.

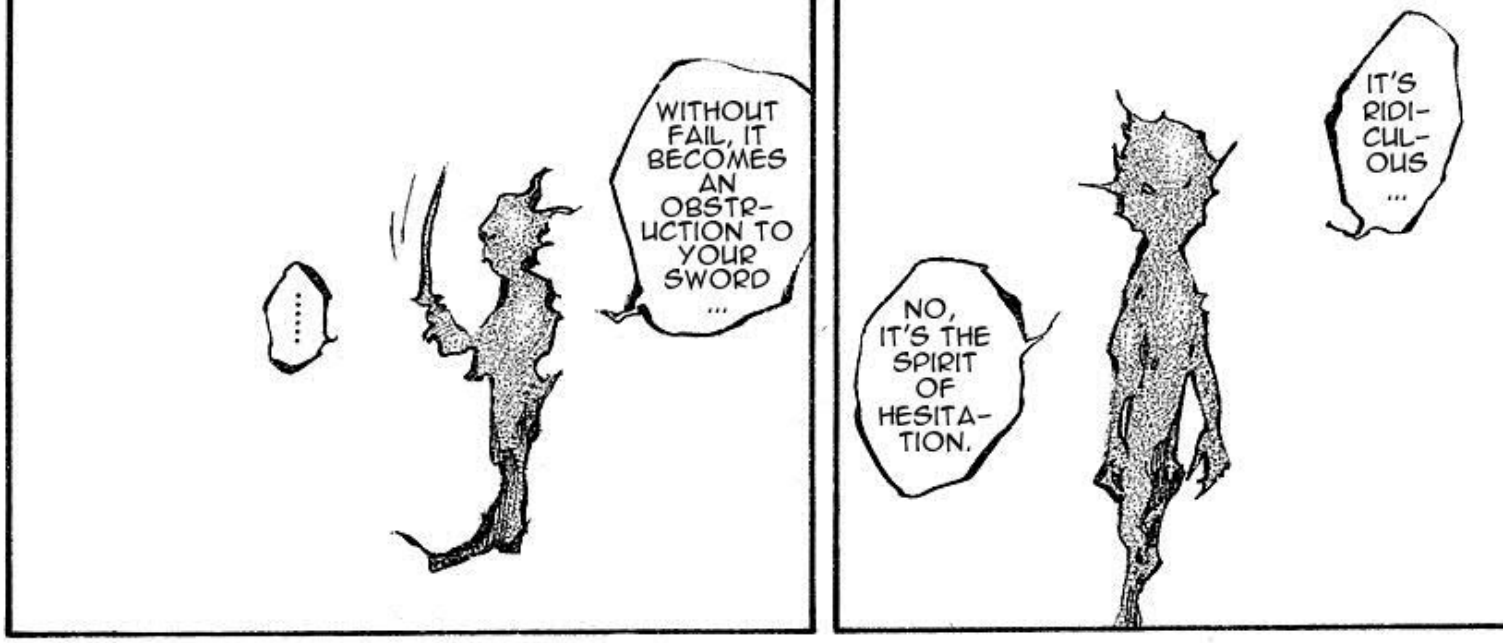


OF COURSE, IF YOU DON'T SURVIVE, YOU COULD NEVER DO IT.

4


WHERE'S THAT BRAT?

MAYBE I RECOGNIZED IT THEN,
THAT HE, WHO WAS DEFEATED, SHOULD BEG FOR HIS LIFE,
AND I, WHO WAS VICTORIOUS, SHOULD LEAVE QUIETLY.
?
HAA
HAA


WITHOUT FAIL, IT BECOMES AN OBSTR-UCTION TO YOUR SWORD ...
.....
IT'S RIDI-CUL-OUS ...
NO, IT'S THE SPIRIT OF HESITA-TION.

I WAS VICTORIOUS ...
AND YET, I RUSHED TO GAIN THE TITLE OF "UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN" ...
WHY I DID THAT, I DON'T KNOW.

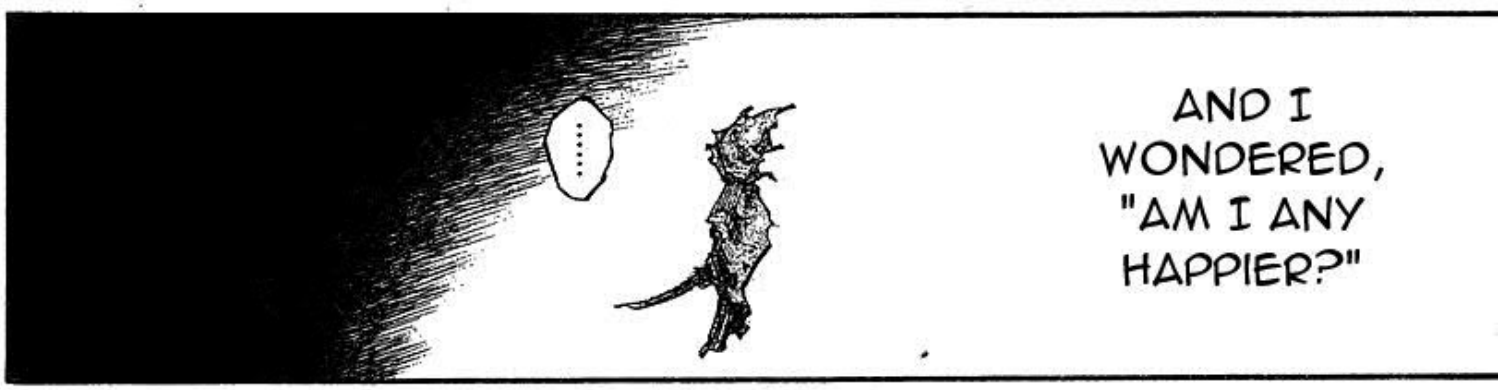
WHAT IS ENOUGH FOR THE ONE UN-RIVALED UNDER HEAVEN?
IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR ME ...

SO, EVERYONE'S EYES TURNED TOWARDS ME.

DECAPITATE, DECAPITATE, I MUST DECAPITATE HIM!

AFTER THAT.
I WON ALL OF THE FIGHTS,
IT WAS EXPECTED THAT I WOULD WIN, BUT...

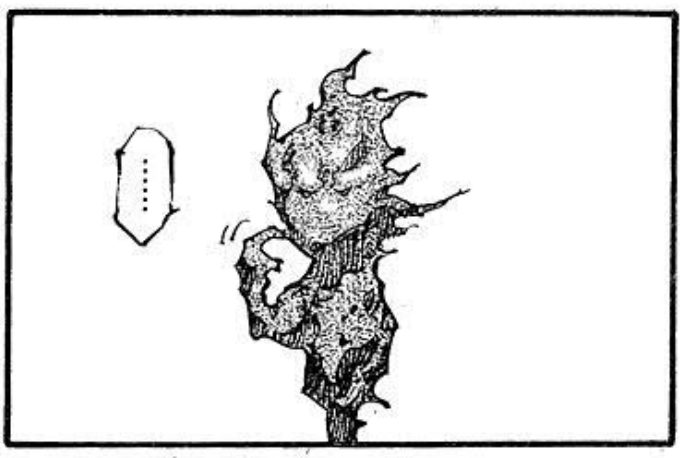
I CUT DOWN YOSHIOKA SEIJUU-ROU


.....
AND I WONDERED, "AM I ANY HAPPIER?"

WHAT!?

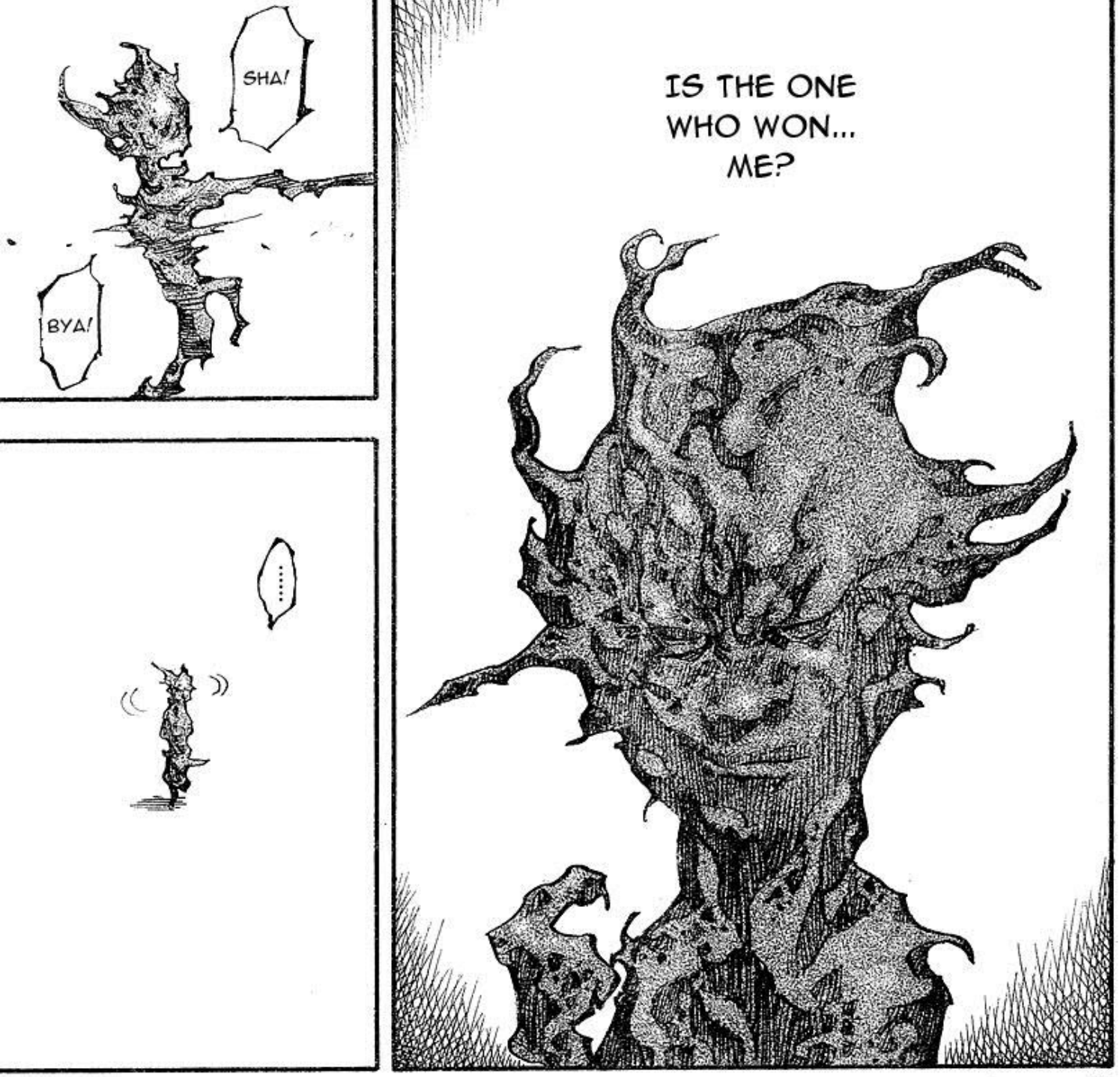
DENSHICHIROU COLLAPSED SO QUICKLY!

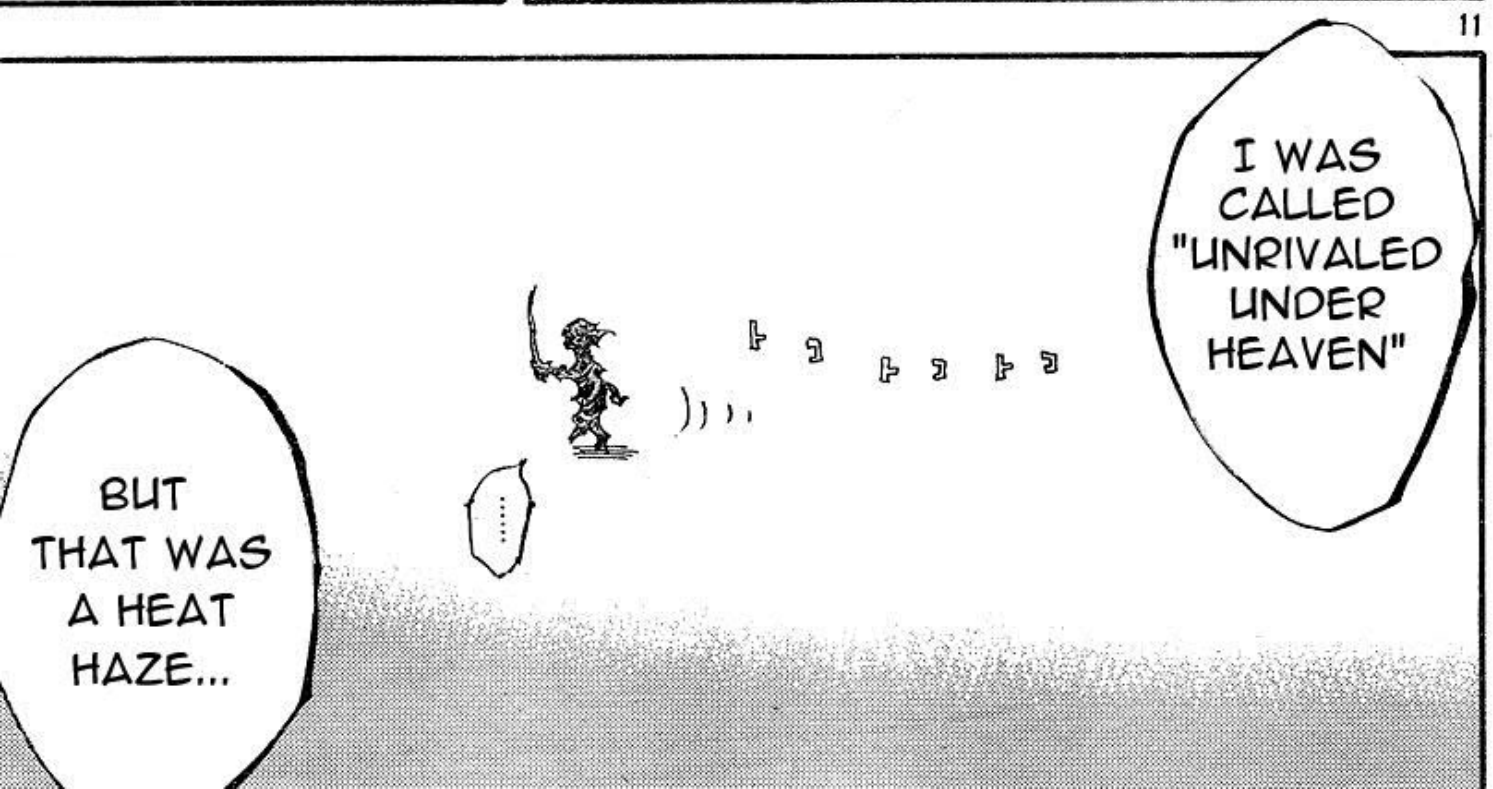
I HAVE NO REGRETS THAT I STOOD IN YOUR WAY!
I AM TAGAYA HIKOZOU OF THE TEN BLADES OF THE YOSHIOKA!



WE WANTED TO IMPROVE BY PRACTICING HARD WITH YOU.
LORD MUSASHI,

HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA


SHA!
BYA!
IS THE ONE WHO WON... ME?

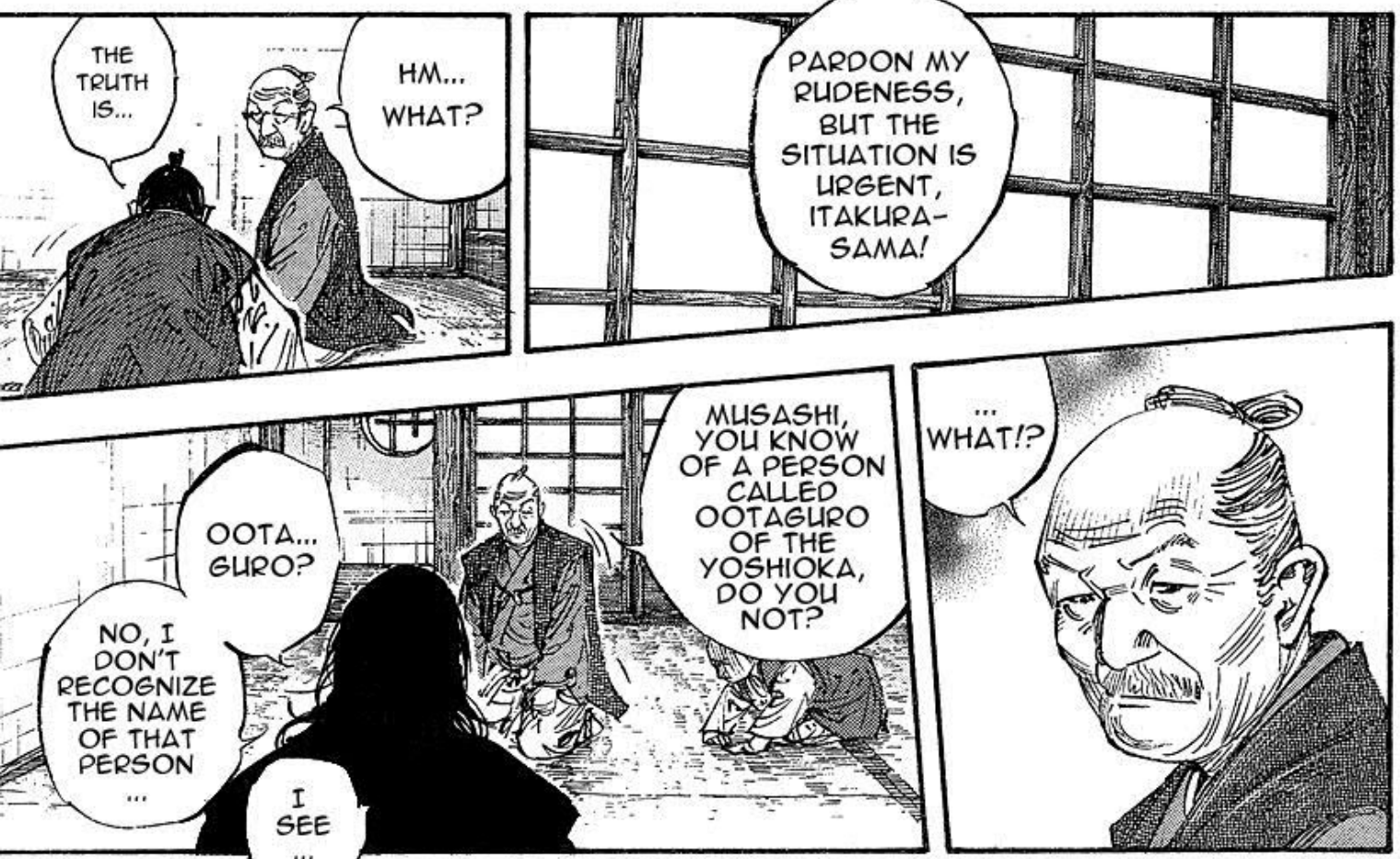

I WAS CALLED "UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN"
トゥトゥトゥ
BUT THAT WAS A HEAT HAZE...

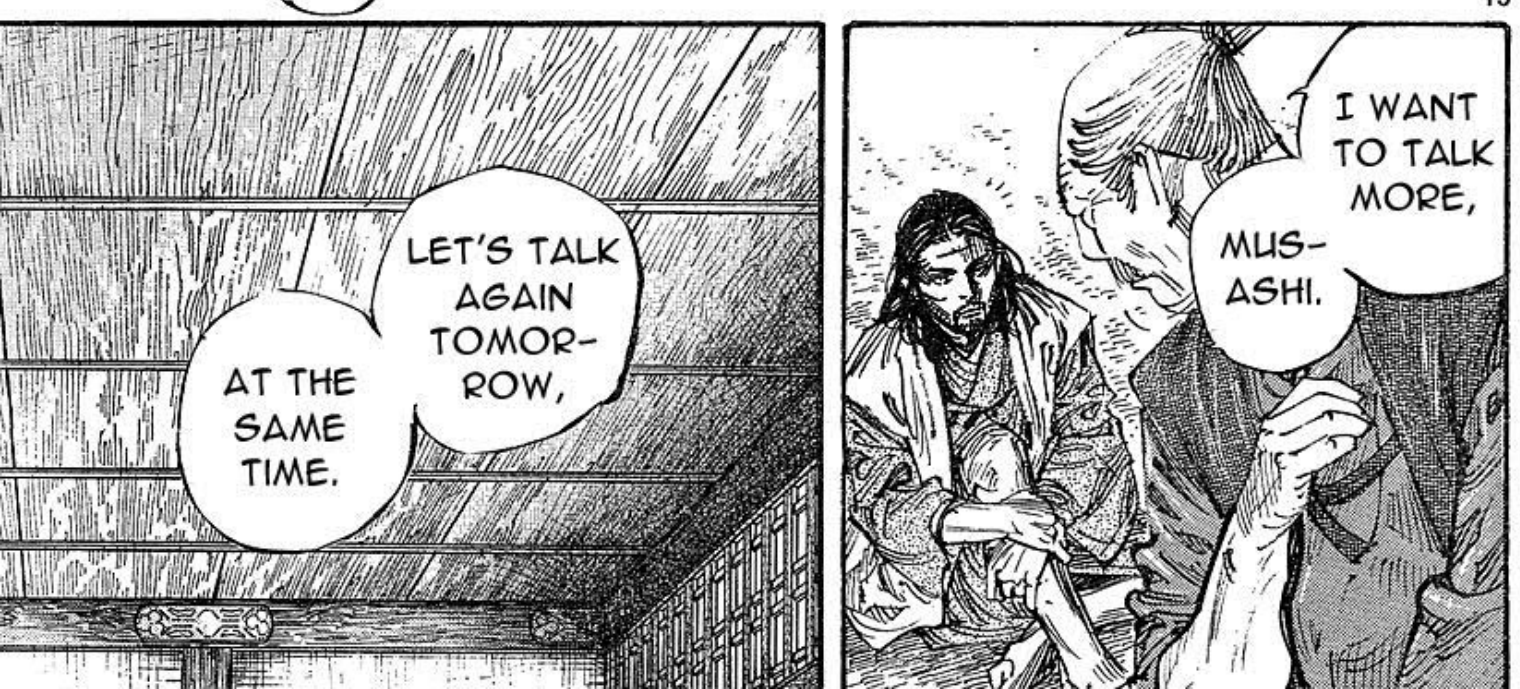
T/N: THE WORD USED HERE CAN ALSO MEAN "DEVOTED" OR JUST "SPENT"

.....

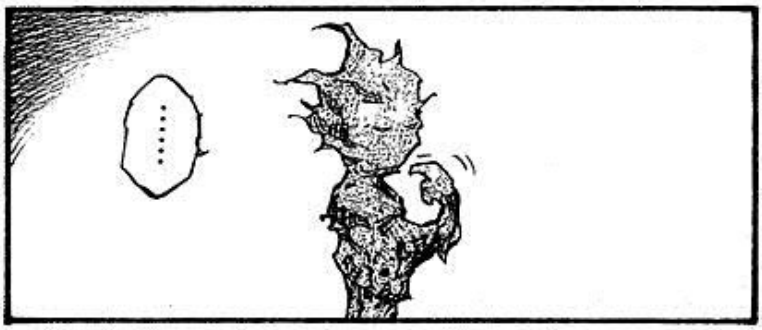
TWENTY-TWO YEARS ...
I ...
.....
... THEN, WILL YOU GIVE UP THE SWORD?

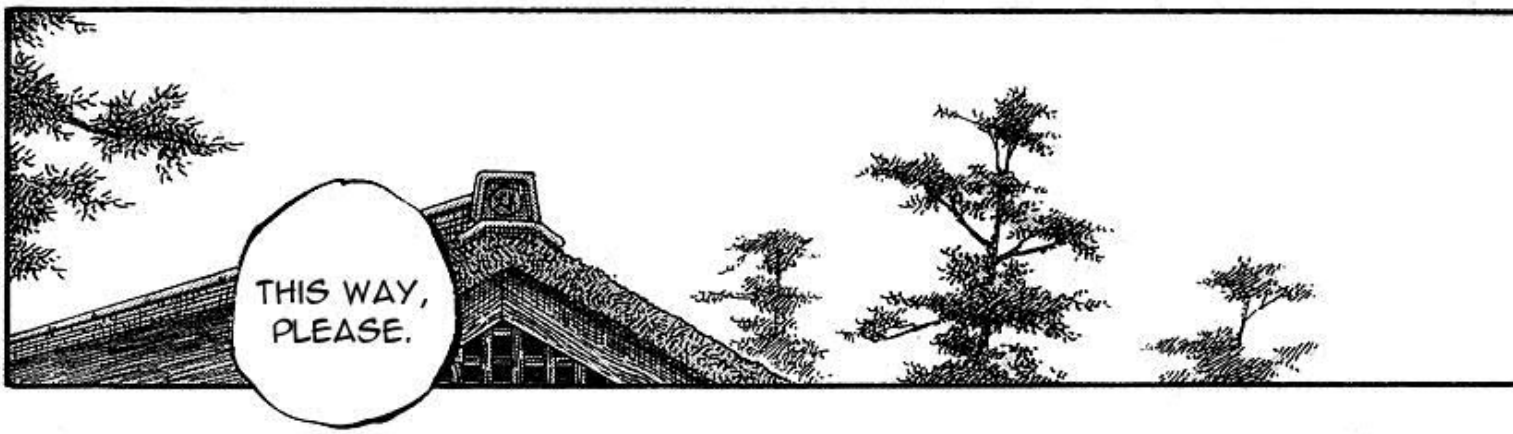
FOR TENS--
NO, FOR HUNDREDS OF MONTHS, I DID NOTHING BUT FIGHT.


THE TRUTH IS...
HM... WHAT?
PARDON MY RUDENESS, BUT THE SITUATION IS URGENT, ITAKURA-SAMA!
MUSASHI, YOU KNOW OF A PERSON CALLED OOTAGURO OF THE YOSHIOKA, DO YOU NOT?
OOTA... GURO?
NO, I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE NAME OF THAT PERSON ...
I SEE ...
... WHAT!?


LET'S TALK AGAIN TOMOR-ROW,
AT THE SAME TIME.
I WANT TO TALK MORE, MUS-ASHI.

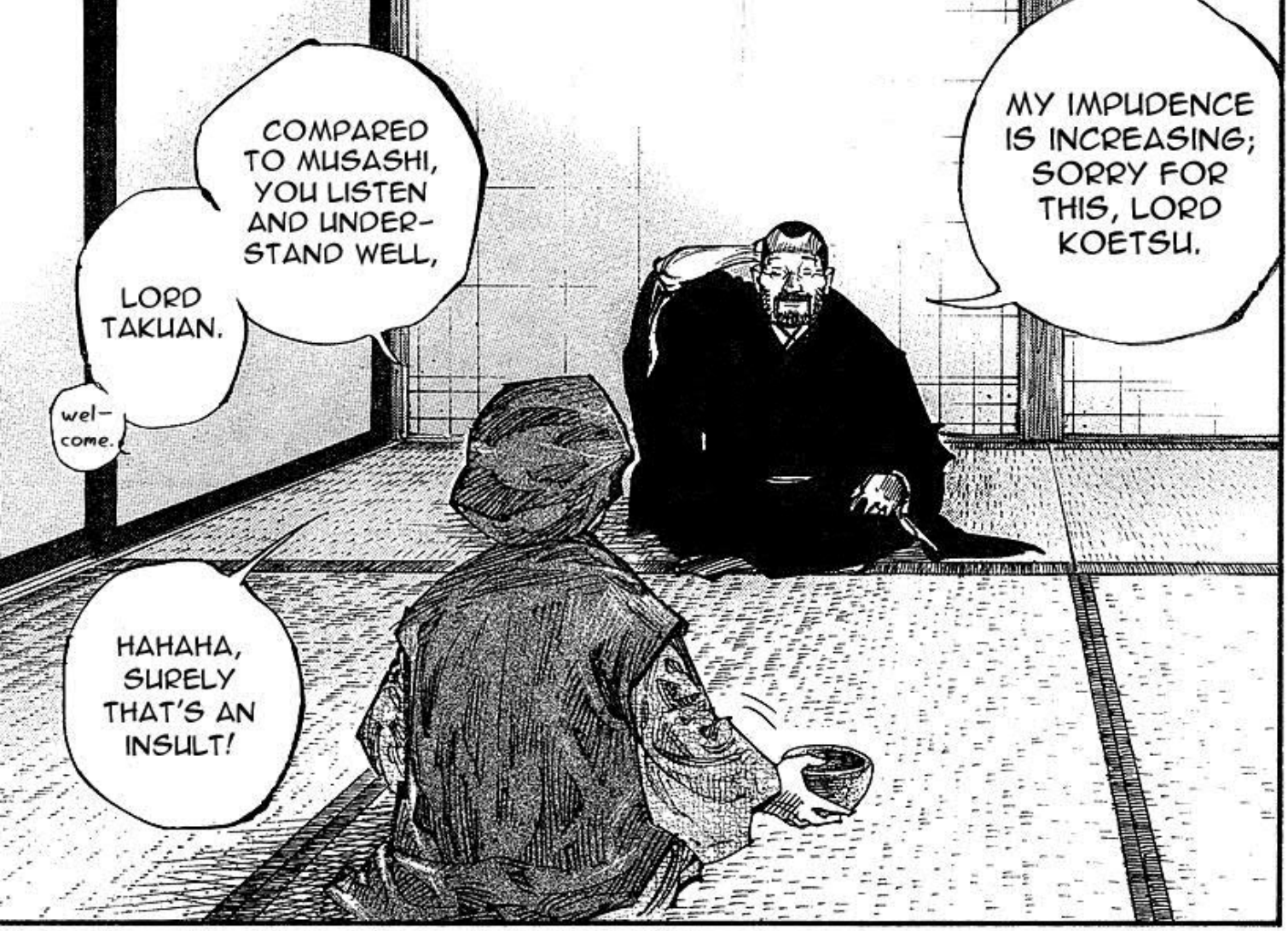
GIVE UP THE BLADE, HUH?


.....


THIS WAY, PLEASE.

HEY THERE.

HERE YOU ARE.


MY IMPUDENCE IS INCREASING; SORRY FOR THIS, LORD KOETSU.
COMPARED TO MUSASHI, YOU LISTEN AND UNDER-STAND WELL, LORD TAKUAN.
wel-come.
HAHAHA, SURELY THAT'S AN INSULT!

.....

YOU MET LORD MUSASHI?
YEAH.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, FOR NEARLY ALL OF TODAY,
I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT MUSASHI'S SITUATION.
WHEN THAT GUY HAS TRAVELED FURTHER DOWN HIS PATH...

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, KOJIROU'S REPUTATION WILL HAVE RISEN TO THE TOPMOST LEVEL.

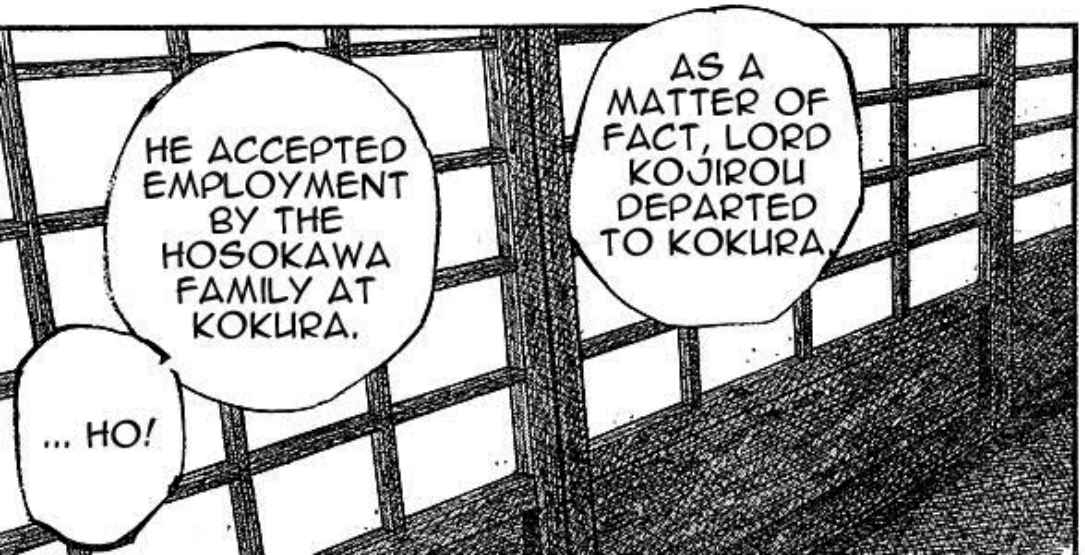
HE WAS STILL SO YOUNG ...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, MY FIRST MEETING WITH HIM WAS A LOT SHORTER THAN WITH MUSASHI.
ABOUT THREE YEARS OLD.

ARE YOU ALSO FAMILIAR WITH LORD KOJIROU'S SITUATION, LORD TAKUAN?
SO YOU CAME HERE ...

HE ALREADY HAD A KATANA!

AHH ...
INDEED, I UNDER-STAND.

A KATANA ...!

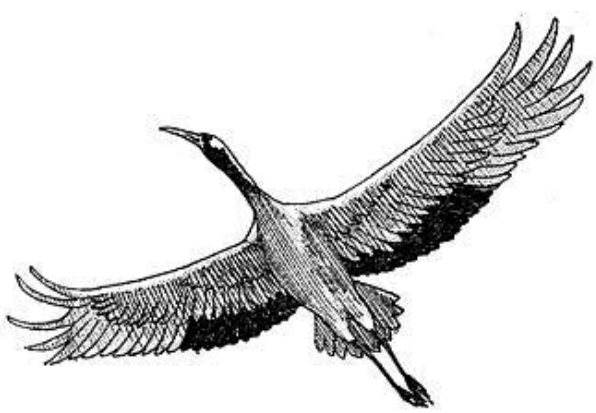

AS A MATTER OF FACT, LORD KOJIROU DEPARTED TO KOKURA.
HE ACCEPTED EMPLOYMENT BY THE HOSOKAWA FAMILY AT KOKURA.
... HO!

LORD TAKUAN,

IT'S A MIRACLE, HUH?

I GUESS I WAS ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT LORD KOJIROU'S SITUATION AS WELL!

WHILE HE'S DOING THAT, LORD MUSASHI'S REPUTAITON WILL REACH THE TOPMOST LEVEL, TOO.



『バガボンド』＃266は
次号第15号に登場！

バガボンド

VAGABOND

原作：吉川英治「宮本武蔵」より

『井上雄彦 最後のマンガ展』熊本版
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*A TYPE OF SWORD.
**THE DAIMYO'S MINISTER.

#266 FRAGMENTS

井上雄彦

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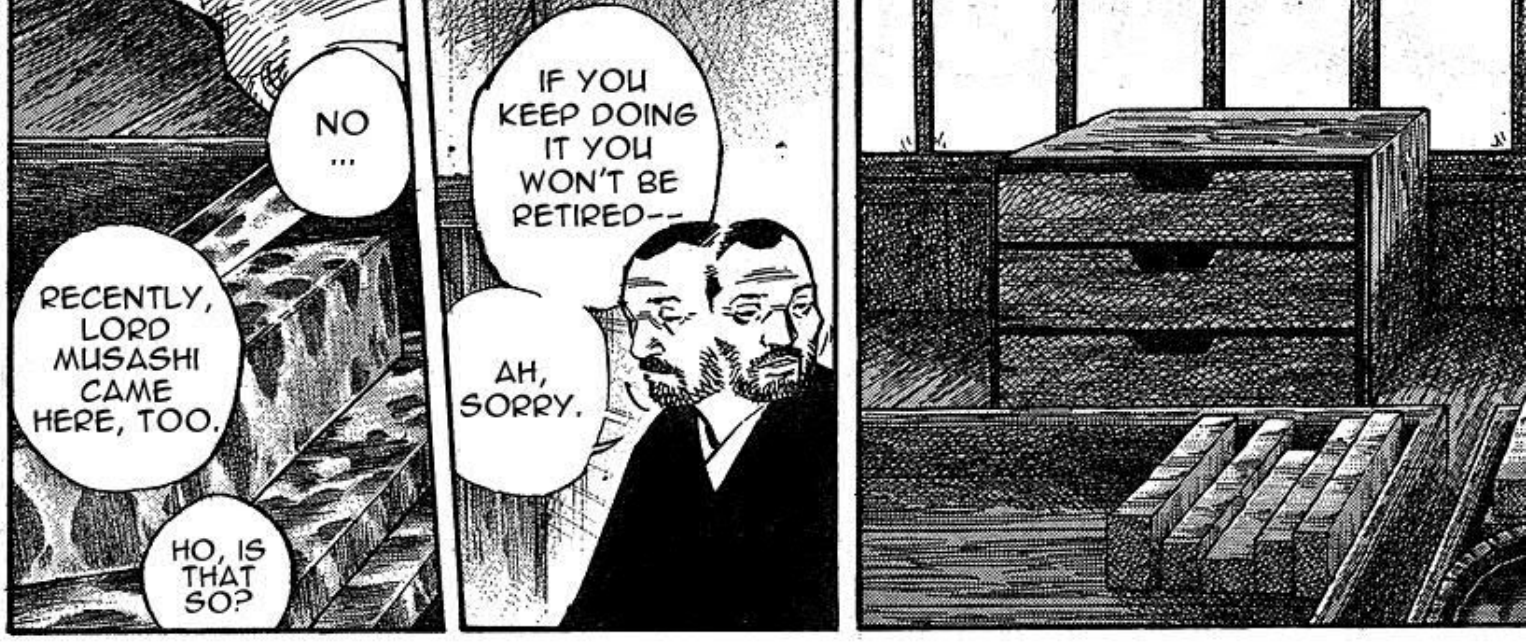

NO ...
RECENTLY, LORD MUSASHI CAME HERE, TOO.
HO, IS THAT SO?
IF YOU KEEP DOING IT YOU WON'T BE RETIRED--
AH, SORRY.

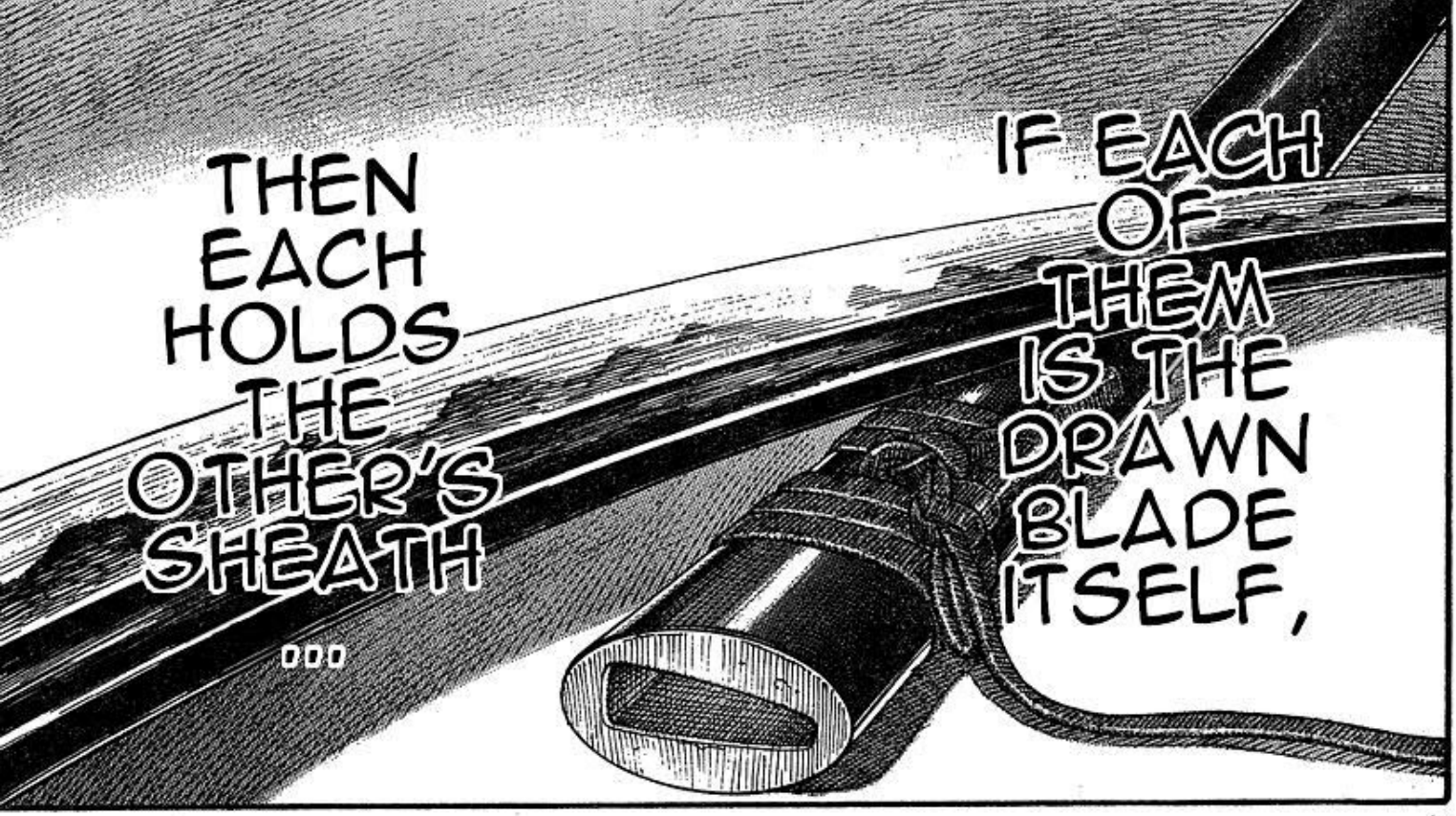
THEY'RE THIS WORLD'S PARIAHS.
MUSASHI AND KOJIROU...
THOSE TWO,

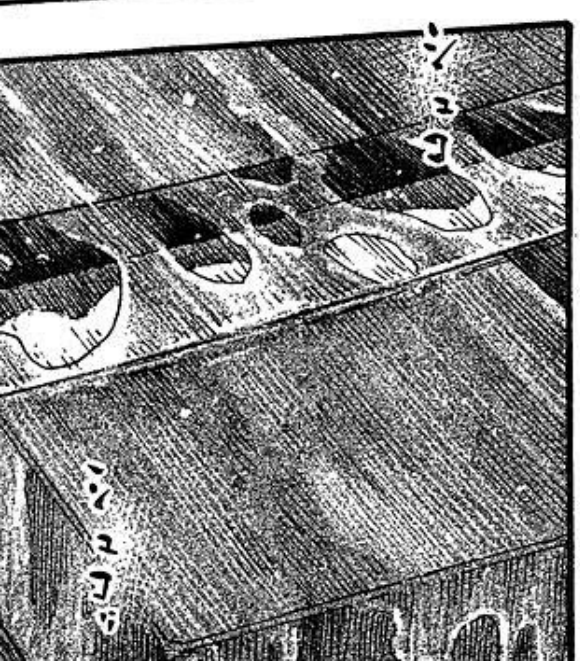
2

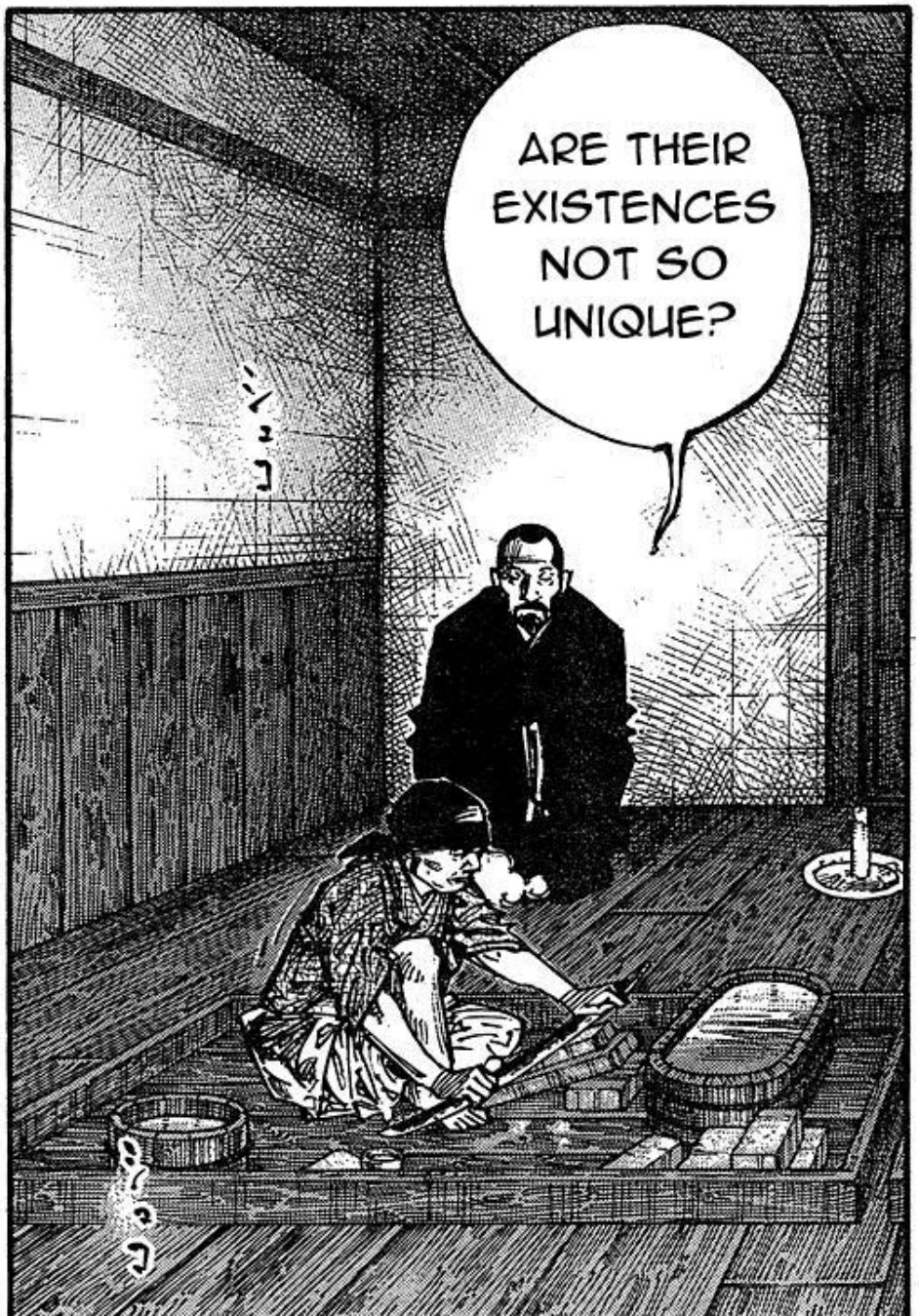
... PERHAPS SO.

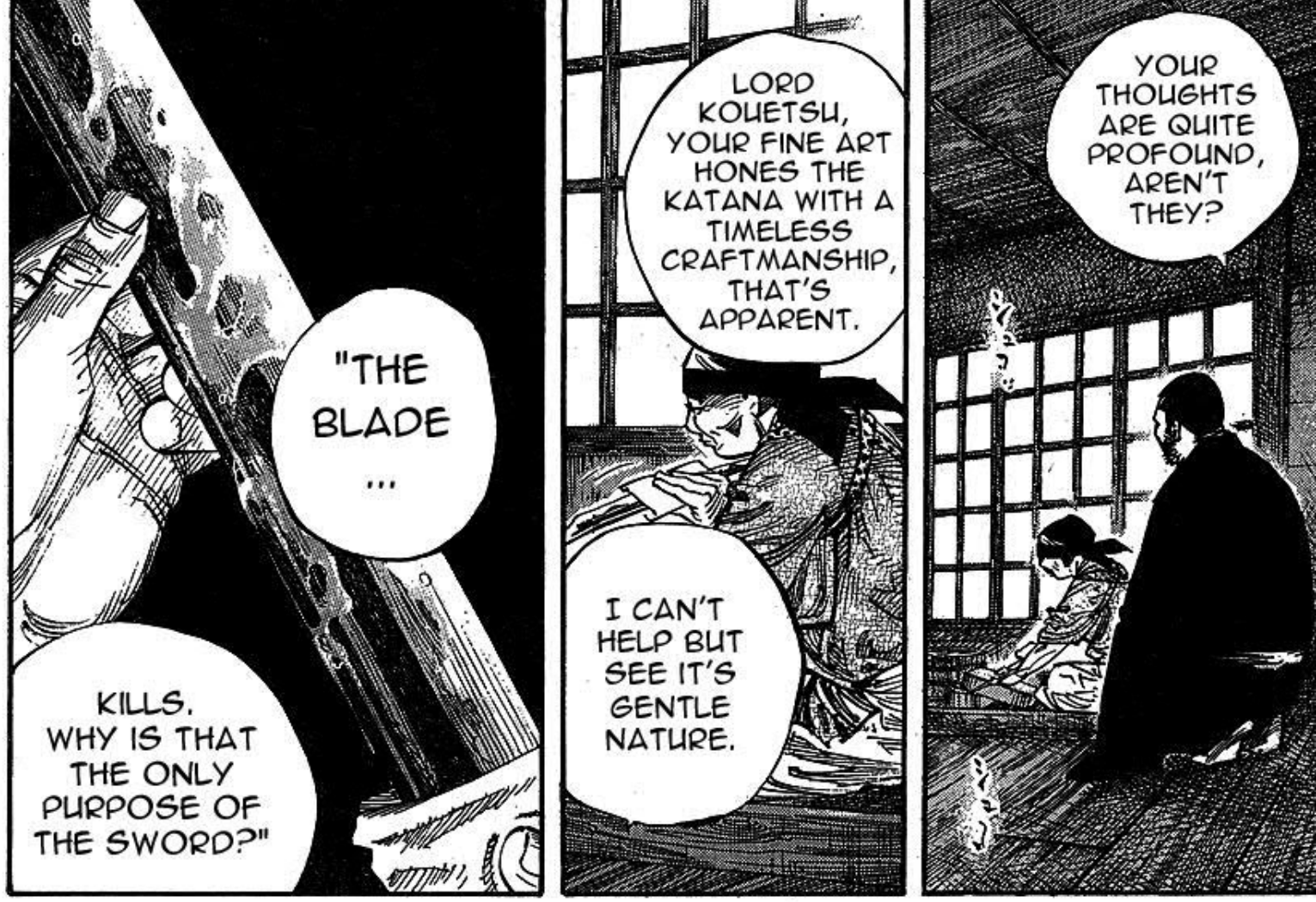
AREN'T THEY EACH ONE WING, EACH HALF OF THE SET?

.....


IF EACH OF THEM IS THE DRAWN BLADE ITSELF,
THEN EACH HOLDS THE OTHER'S SHEATH
...

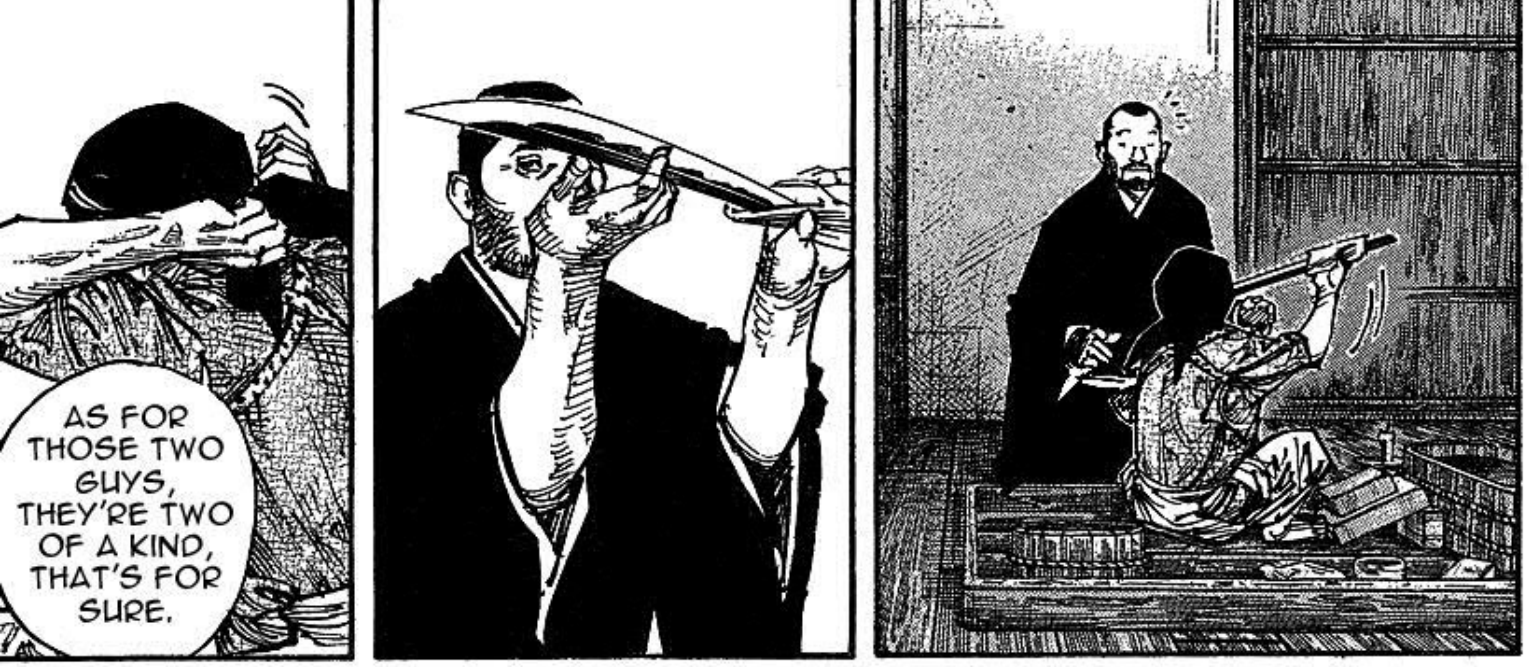


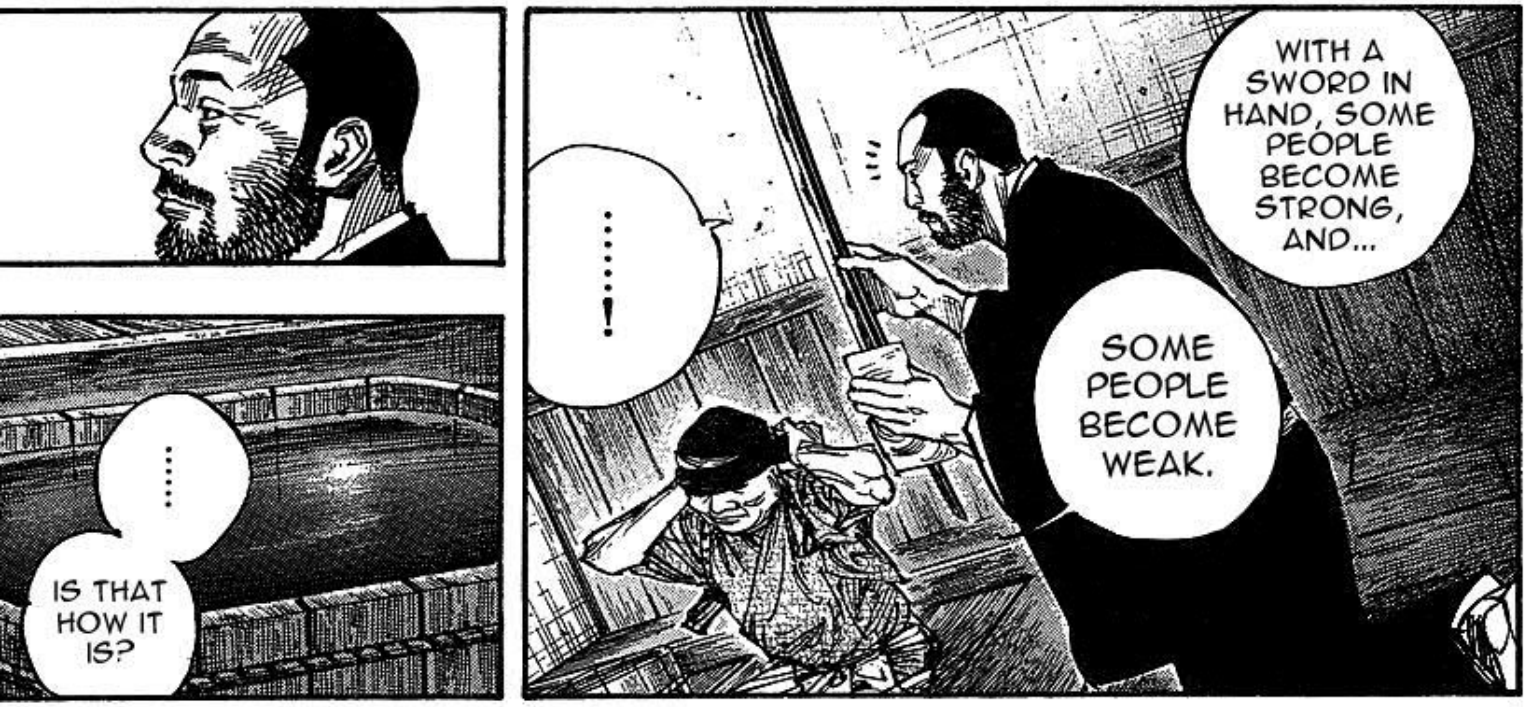

ARE THEIR EXISTENCES NOT SO UNIQUE?

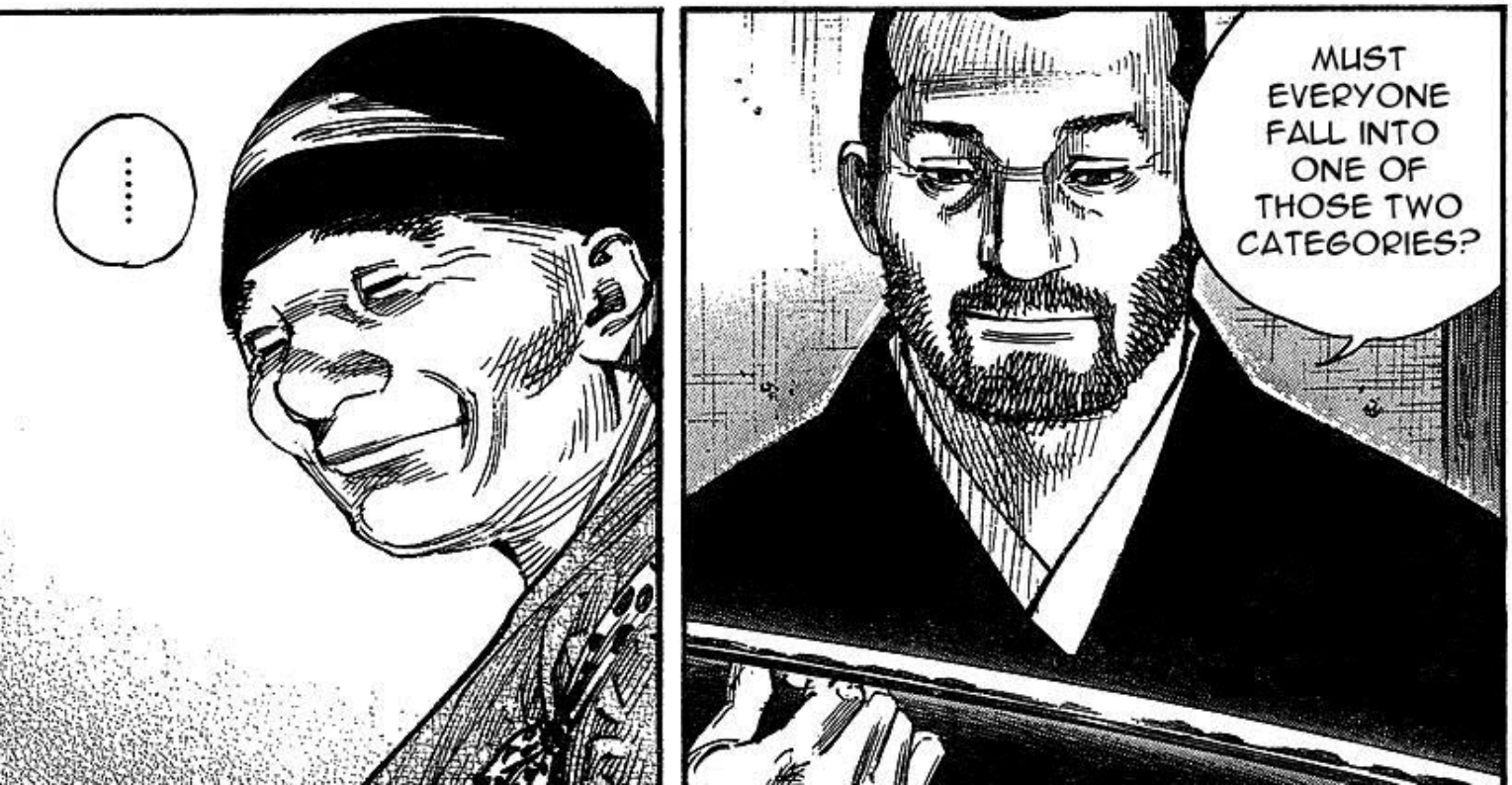

"THE BLADE ...
KILLS. WHY IS THAT THE ONLY PURPOSE OF THE SWORD?"
LORD KOUETSU, YOUR FINE ART HONES THE KATANA WITH A TIMELESS CRAFTMANSHIP, THAT'S APPARENT.
I CAN'T HELP BUT SEE IT'S GENTLE NATURE.
YOUR THOUGHTS ARE QUITE PROFOUND, AREN'T THEY?

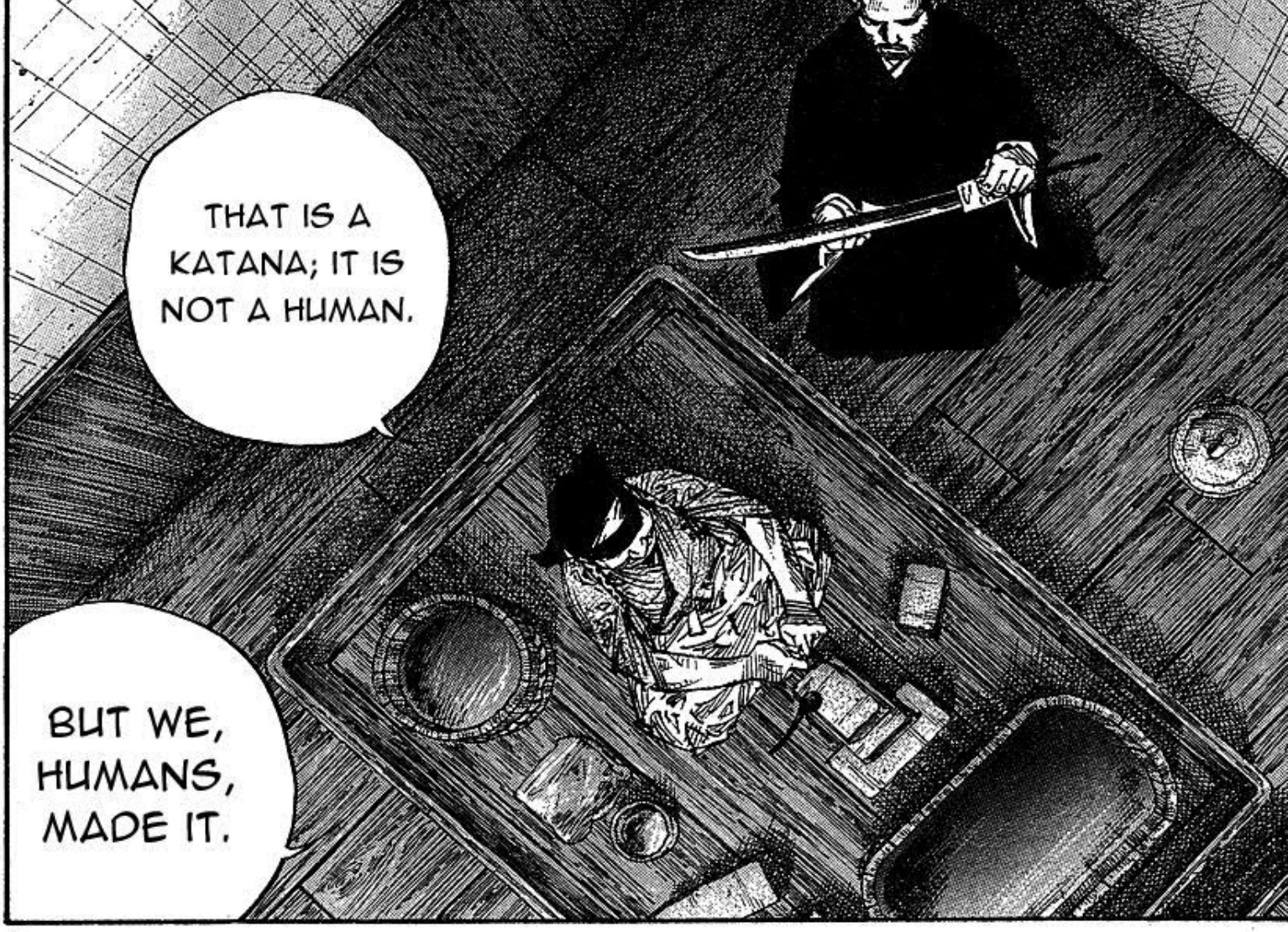
A QUESTION LIKE THAT IS LOST ON ME, I'M AFRAID.

.....

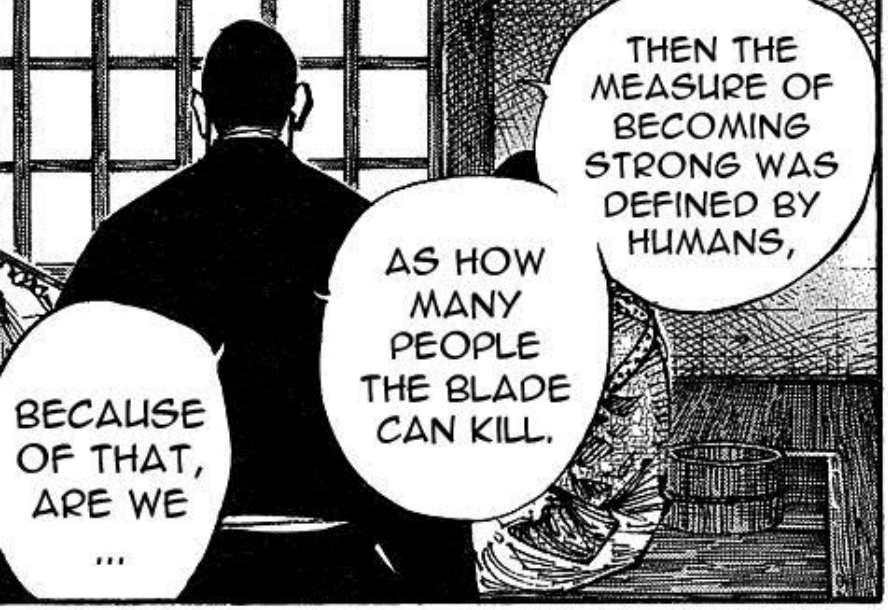

AS FOR THOSE TWO GUYS, THEY'RE TWO OF A KIND, THAT'S FOR SURE.


WITH A SWORD IN HAND, SOME PEOPLE BECOME STRONG, AND...
SOME PEOPLE BECOME WEAK.
.....!
.....
IS THAT HOW IT IS?


MUST EVERYONE FALL INTO ONE OF THOSE TWO CATEGORIES?
.....


THAT IS A KATANA; IT IS NOT A HUMAN.
BUT WE, HUMANS, MADE IT.

THE SWORD WAS NOT MADE BY HEAVEN ...


BECAUSE OF THAT, ARE WE ...
AS HOW MANY PEOPLE THE BLADE CAN KILL.
THEN THE MEASURE OF BECOMING STRONG WAS DEFINED BY HUMANS,

IF THAT'S THE CASE ...
.....

SEPARATED FROM OUR OWN, TRUE STRENGTH?

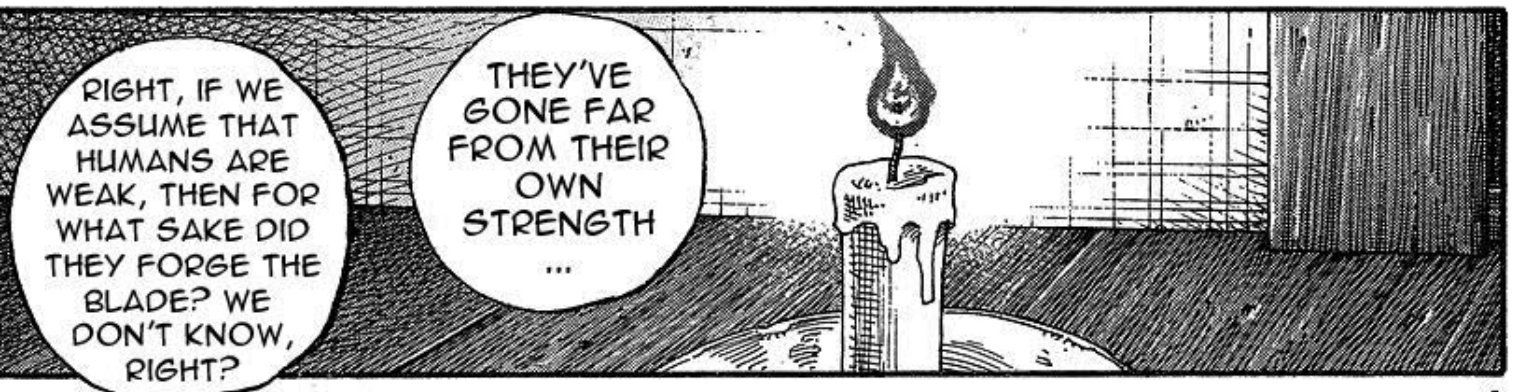
LORD MUSASHI ...

WHY AM I DYING OF BOREDOM?
IF I DON'T MAKE MY BODY MOVE, I'LL GET DISORIENTED AND DIE. WHY IS THAT MY NATURE?

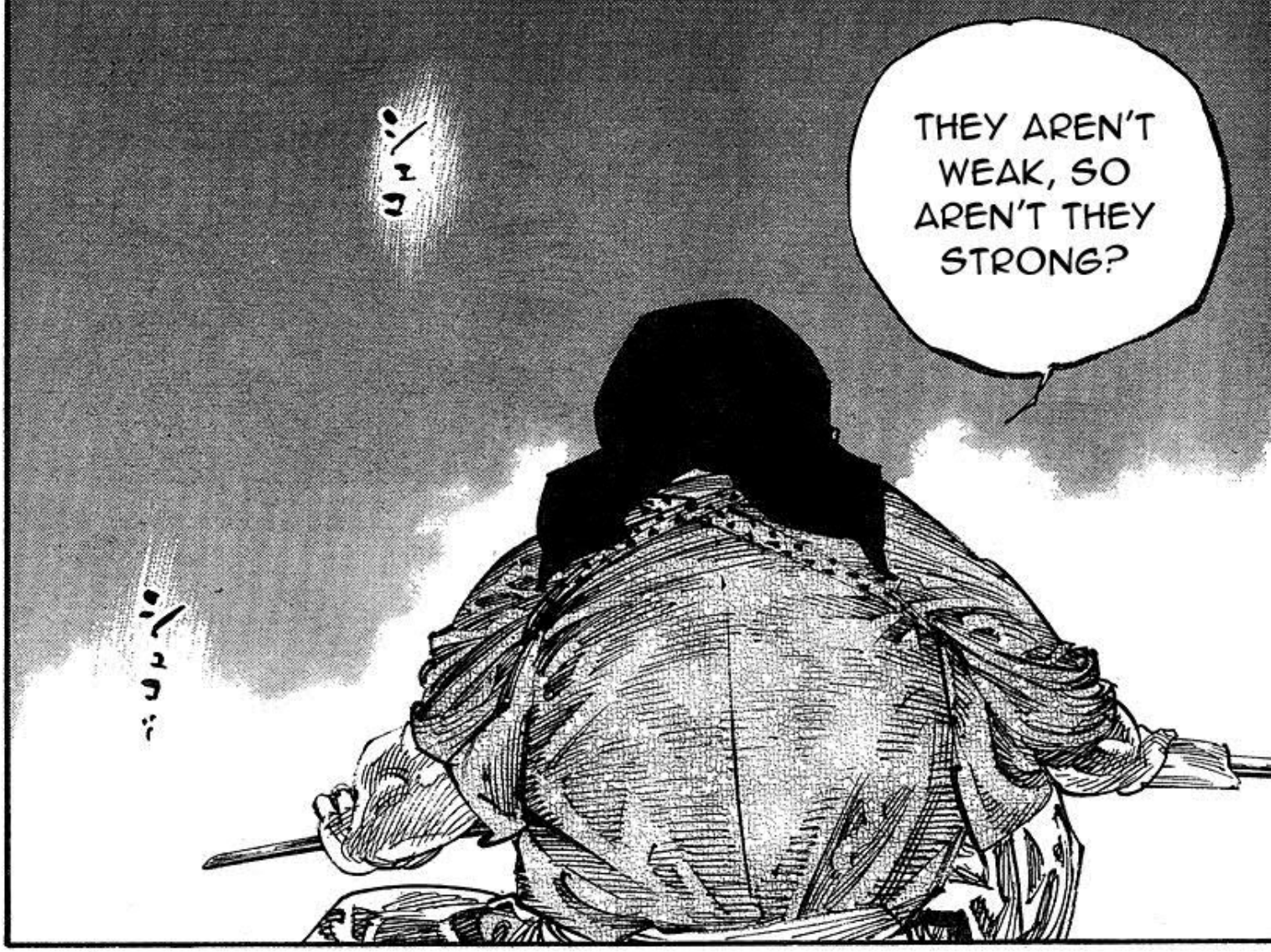
PLEASE, LET US DO THE WOOD CHOPPING ...
YOU WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED; IN YOUR CONDITION, YOU--
NO, PLEASE LET ME DO IT.

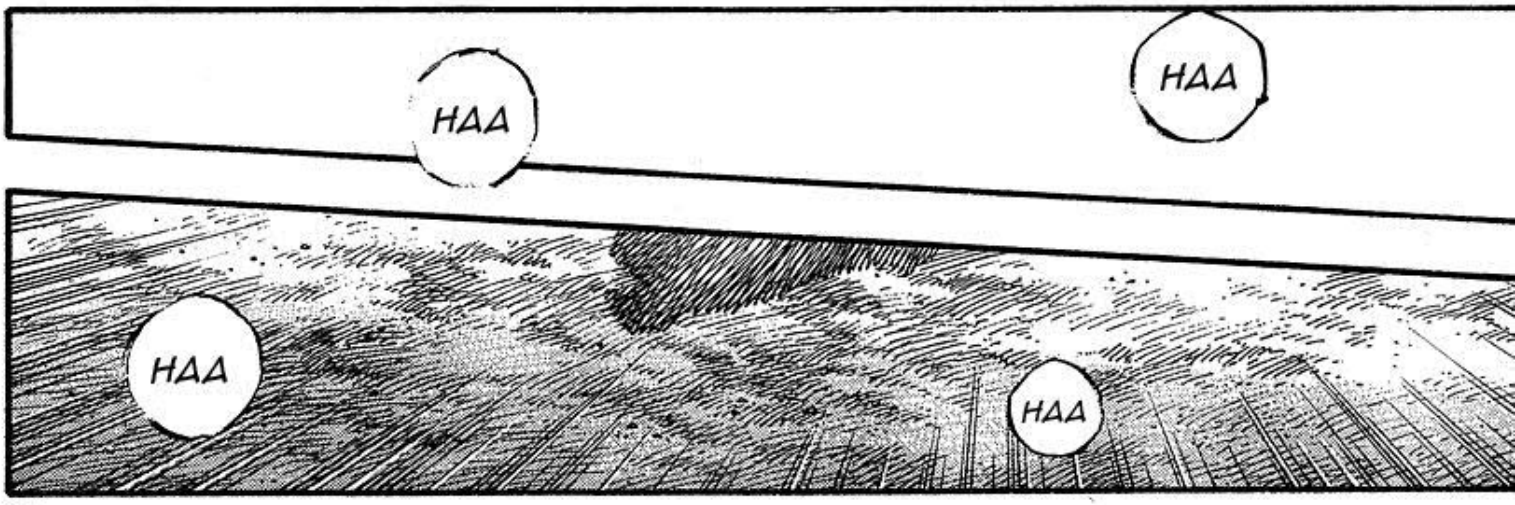
.....

BUT ...


RIGHT, IF WE ASSUME THAT HUMANS ARE WEAK, THEN FOR WHAT SAKE DID THEY FORGE THE BLADE? WE DON'T KNOW, RIGHT?
THEY'VE GONE FAR FROM THEIR OWN STRENGTH ...

IT'S NOT A MISTAKE ...
.....
BECAUSE THE HEAVENS MADE THOSE PEOPLE ...
.....


THEY AREN'T WEAK, SO AREN'T THEY STRONG?

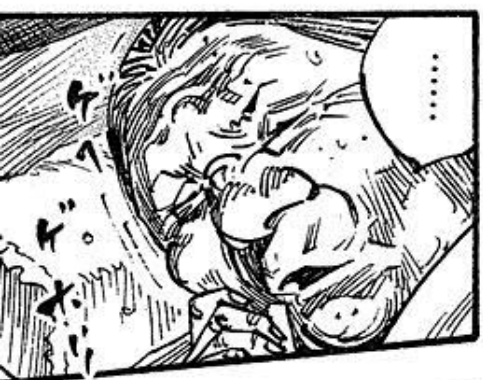

HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA

HAA
HAA

I BOUGHT IT!
MOTHER!

OSUGI-SAN, IT'S GOOD OF YOUR SON TO COME.

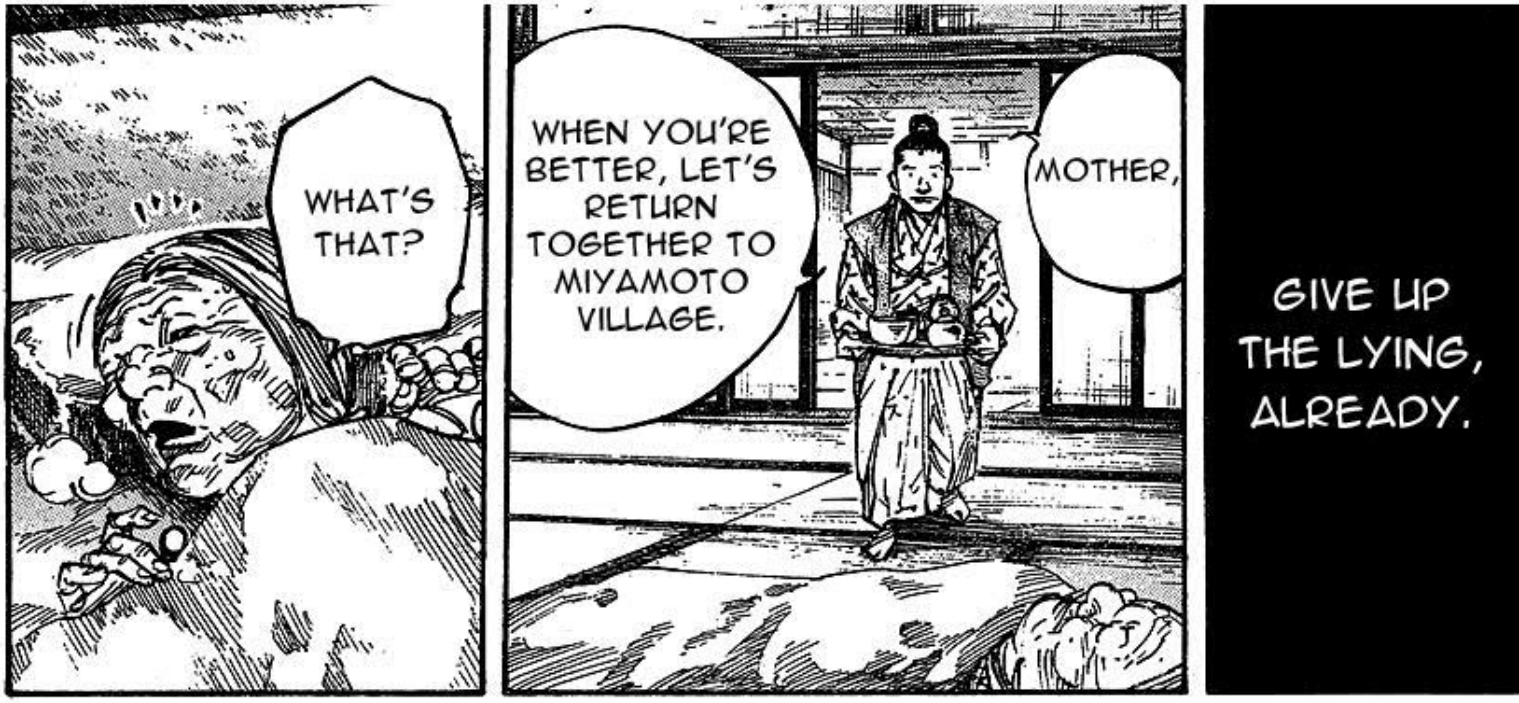
IT'S A VERY EFFECTIVE HERBAL MEDICINE THAT'S REALLY POPULAR!
I ALSO GOT A RAW EGG,
IF THE MEDICINE DOESN'T HELP.


.....

WHAT IS "MY OWN"?
"ON MY OWN" ...

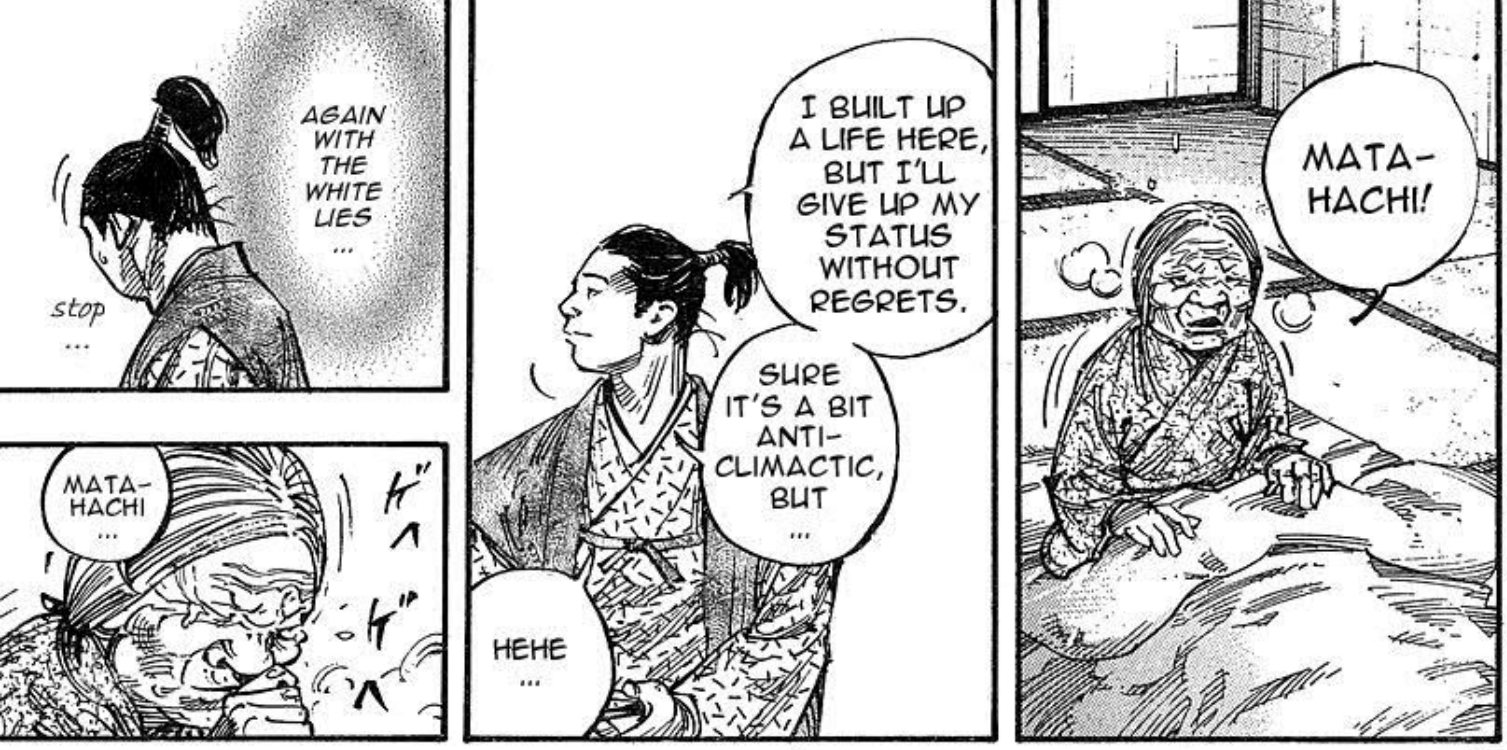
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! I'M ON MY OWN, NOW!
NOW GIVE ME A SECOND, I'M PREPARING IT.

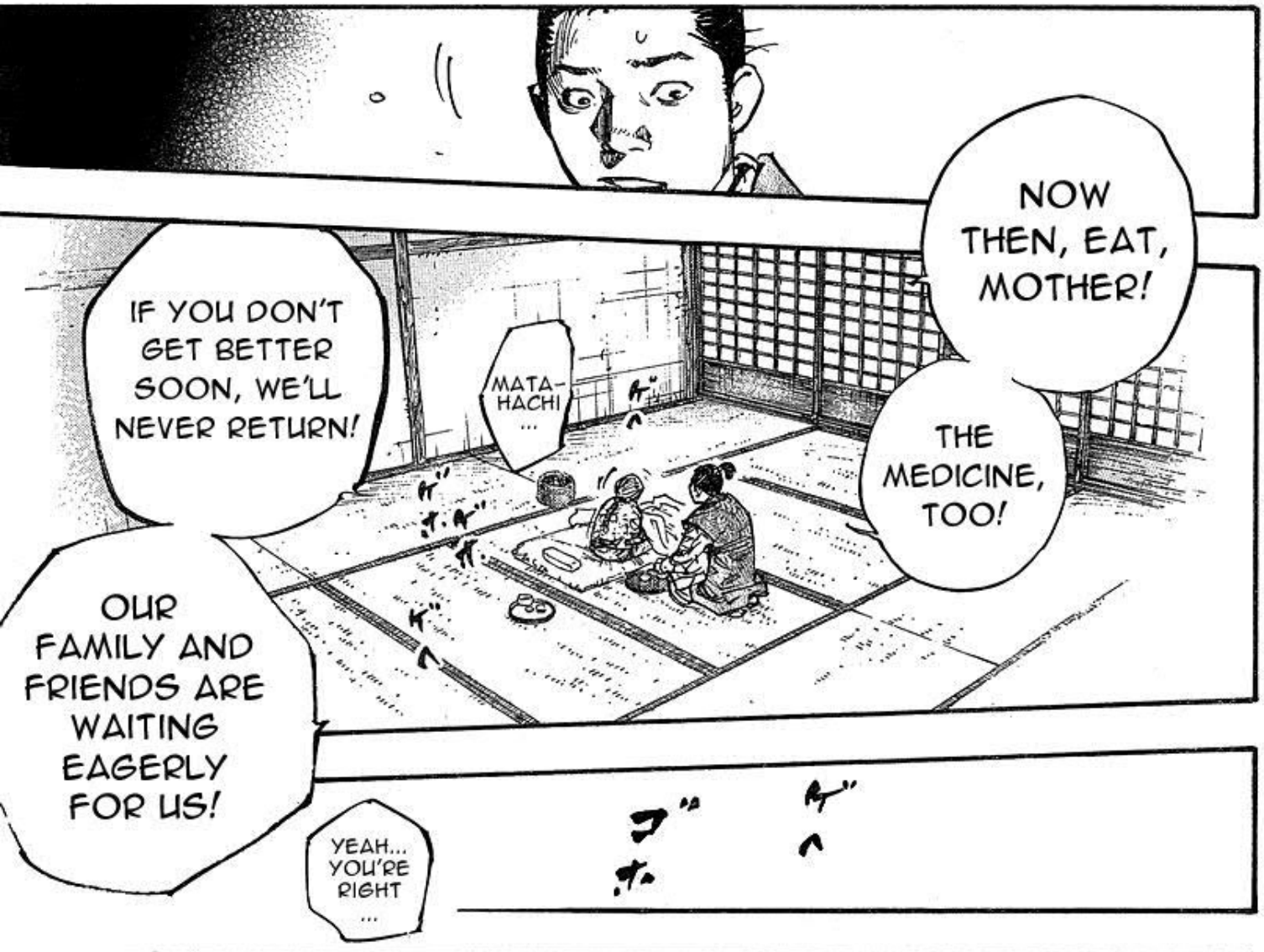
.....
IT MUST HAVE BEEN EXPENSIVE.
IT'S GOOD YOU HAVE SUCH MONEY, MY MATAHACHI.

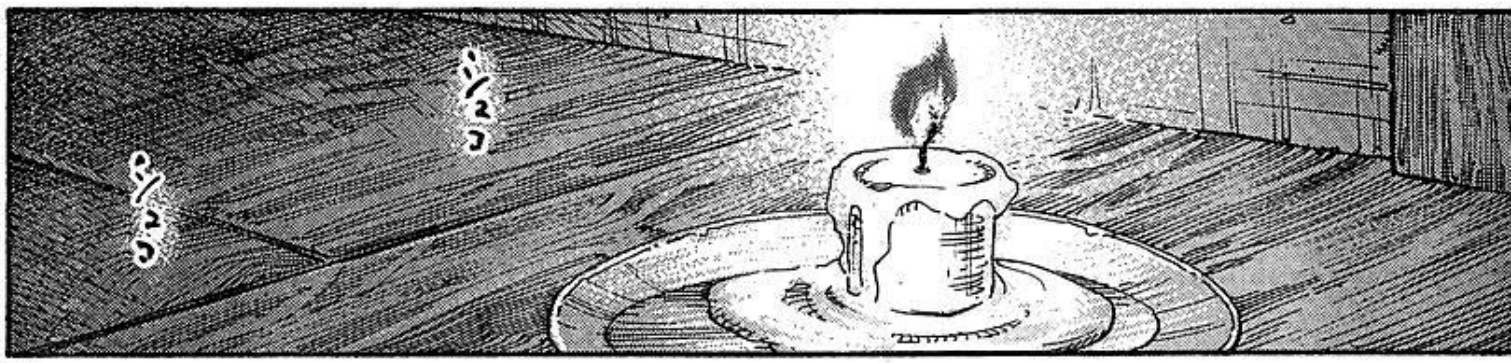

WHAT'S THAT?
WHEN YOU'RE BETTER, LET'S RETURN TOGETHER TO MIYAMOTO VILLAGE.
MOTHER,
GIVE UP THE LYING, ALREADY.

AT FIRST IT CAUGHT MY EYE, BUT ONCE YOU'VE EXPERIENCED IT, WHY STAY, RIGHT?
IF YOU'VE GOT THE REAL THING, YOU'VE GOT THE FAKE TOO. IT'S THE SAME WITH THE COUNTRY, RIGHT?
hehe
I'VE ALREADY LOST INTEREST IN KYOTO.

I'LL BECOME THE BEST PERSON THERE!
I CAN START OVER AT MIYAMOTO VILLAGE!


AGAIN WITH THE WHITE LIES ...
stop ...
I BUILT UP A LIFE HERE, BUT I'LL GIVE UP MY STATUS WITHOUT REGRETS.
SURE IT'S A BIT ANTI-CLIMACTIC, BUT ...
HEHE ...
MATA-HACHI!
MATA-HACHI ...


NOW THEN, EAT, MOTHER!
THE MEDICINE, TOO!
MATA-HACHI ...
IF YOU DON'T GET BETTER SOON, WE'LL NEVER RETURN!
OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE WAITING EAGERLY FOR US!
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT ...



"TO KILL PEOPLE." ONLY FOR THAT SAKE, DID PEOPLE INVENT THE BLADE.
BUT IN IT, THERE IS UNMISTAKABLE BEAUTY ...
SUCH A CONTRA-DICTION ...

.....

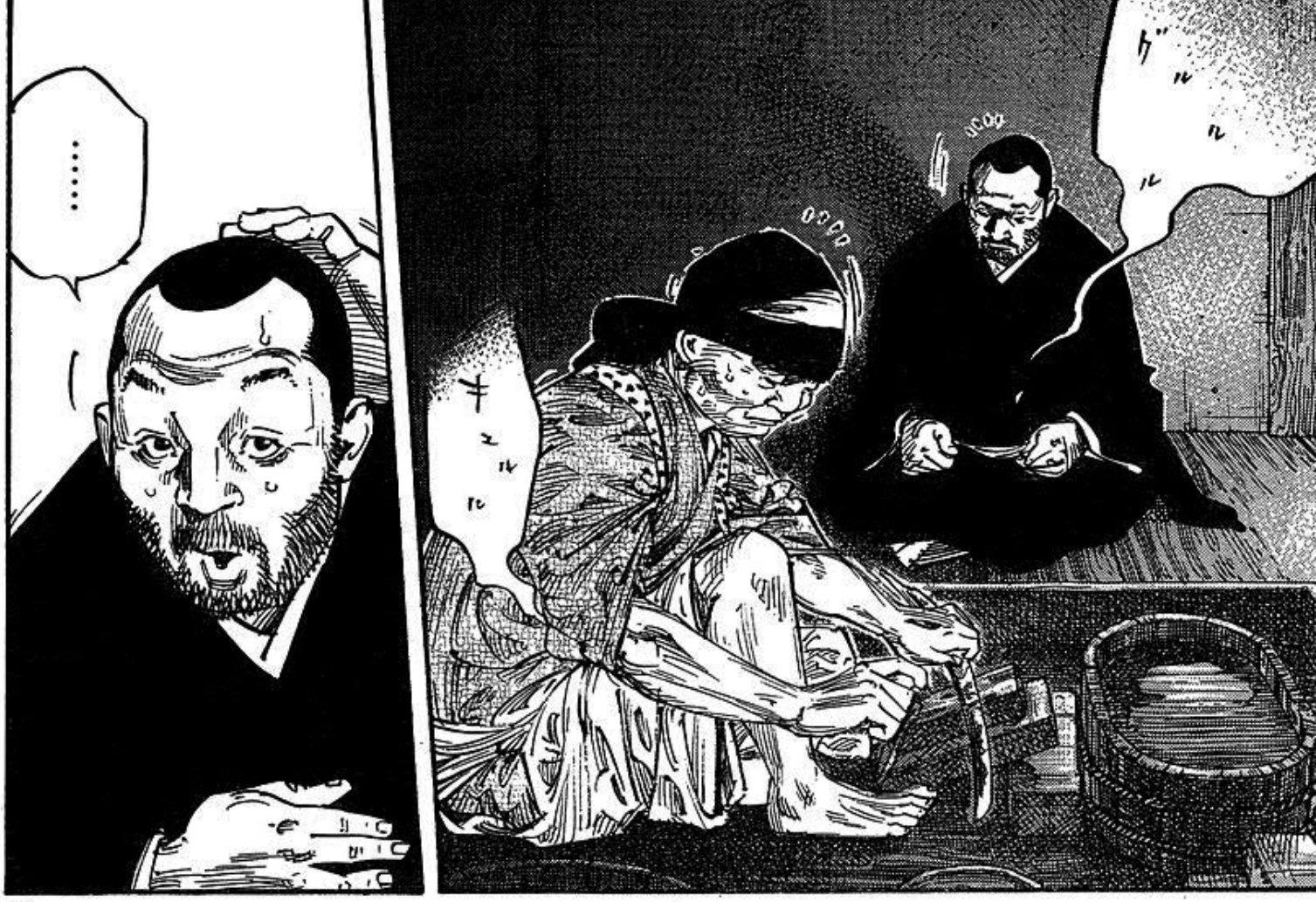
THE KATANA KILLS, AND BECAUSE OF THAT, IT IS BEAUTIFUL.
THERE IS NO BEAUTY IN A NON-LETHAL KATANA.

THEY ARE BORN FOR THE SAKE OF KILLING, AND, AS THEY KILL,
THEY ARE MOST BEAUTIFUL.
SUCH BEAUTY, ACHIEVED SO COLDLY ...

THOSE WHO
HOLD THE
BLADE
COMPLETE
THAT BEAUTY.

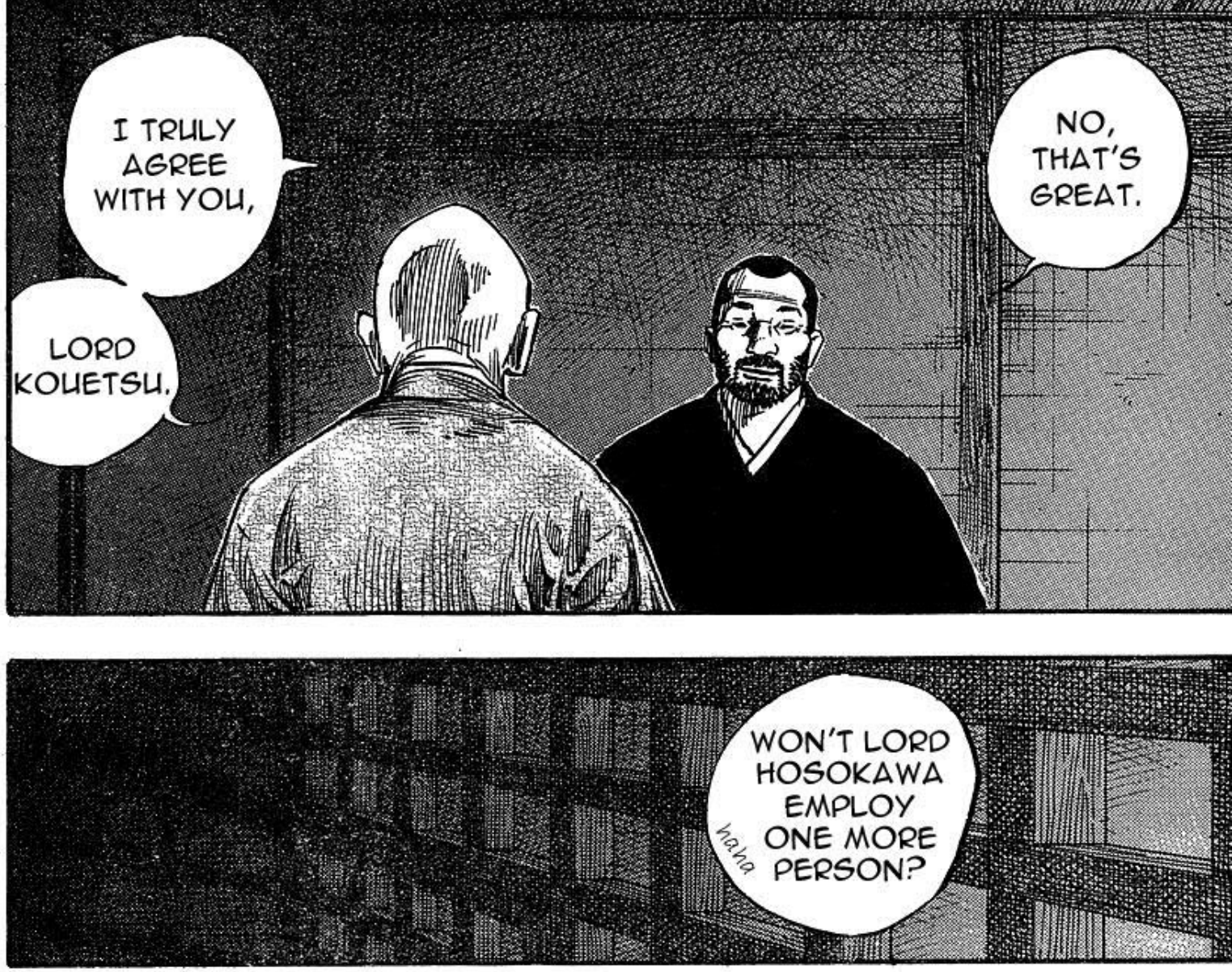
STRENGTH AND BEAUTY ARE THE SAME THING.
BUT EVEN WITH SUCH BEAUTY,
THE KATANA IS NOT SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO REQUIRE KILLING.
BECAUSE ...

WELL, I CAN APPRECIATE THAT THINKING ABOUT THE KATANA MOVES ME SO MUCH.


……

……
TAHA HA!
IS IT ALREADY SO LATE? I HADN'T NOTICED!
PLEASE, EAT!
HAHA, CERT-AINLY!
THE OTHER'S SHEATH ...

ALONE, THEY ARE PARIAHS; BUT IF THEY'RE TOGETHER,
19
THEY COMPROMISE WITH THE WORLD OF HUMANS, DON'T THEY?
I DIDN'T PUT THAT WELL, BUT ...


I TRULY AGREE WITH YOU, LORD KOUETSU.
NO, THAT'S GREAT.
WON'T LORD HOSOKAWA EMPLOY ONE MORE PERSON?
haha

MUSASHI SHALL ALSO GO TO KOKURA!
『バガボンド』＃267は次号第16号に登場！

バガボンド
VAGABOND
原作：吉川英治「宮本武蔵」より
#267 CROSSROADS 井上雄彦
"INOUE TAKEHIKO ON THE WEB" http://www.itplanning.co.jp/

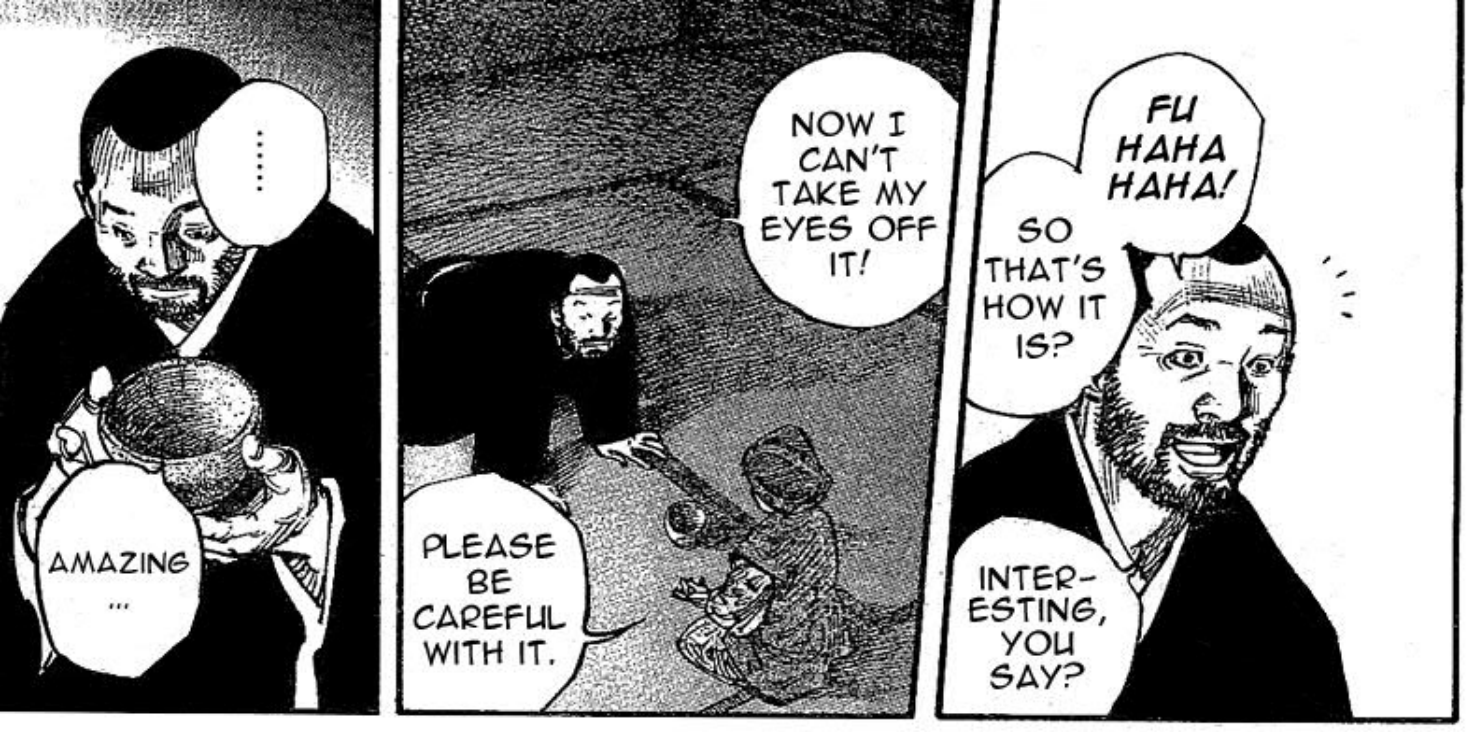
<ruby>恋<rt>ど</rt>とう<rt>とう</rt></ruby>の最新刊第29巻、絶賛発売中!
「井上雄彦 最後のマンガ展 重版〈熊本版〉」熊本市現代美術館(熊本県)にて、4/11(土)スタート!
鑑賞チケット&特集ムック『井上雄彦びあ』、好評発売中!! 詳細はhttp://www.flow-er.co.jp/へ!

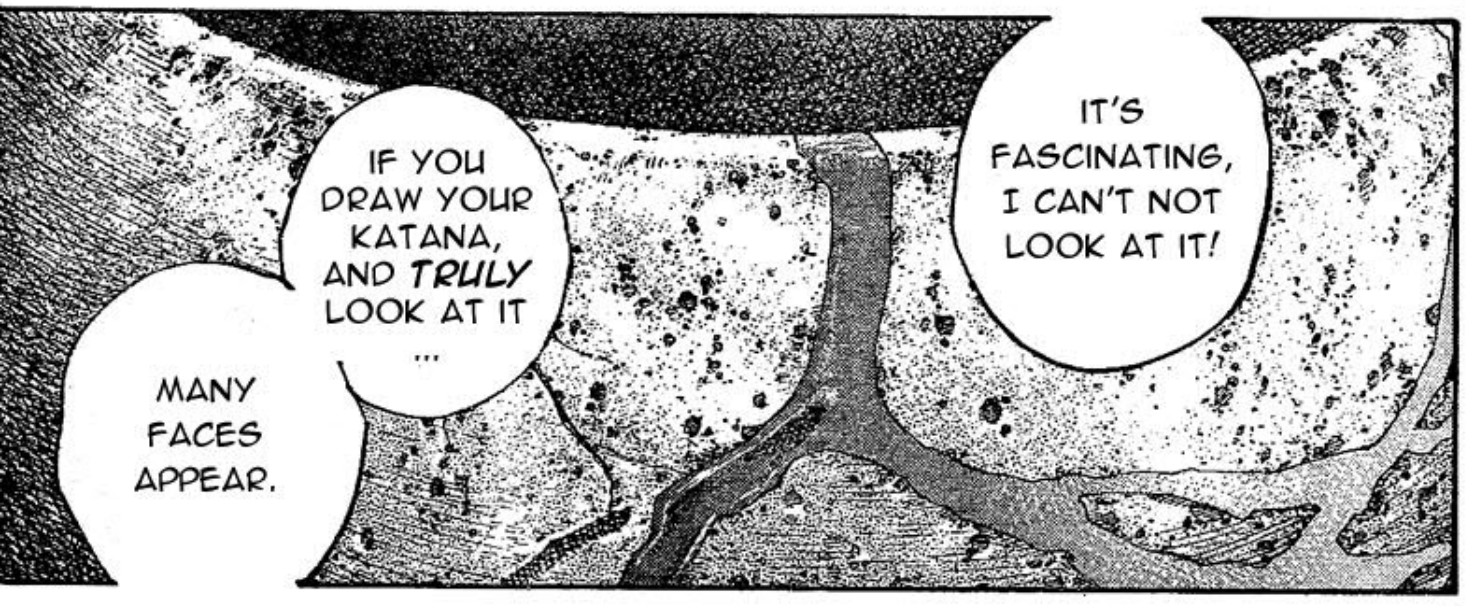
THAT
...
LORD KOUETSU, IS THAT...?

IT'S NOT A TRICK OF MY EYES;
IT'S REALLY CRACKED, RIGHT?
YEAH.

2

NO, IT'S NOT ALL RIGHT.
IT'S INTEREST-ING, THOUGH.
IS IT ALL RIGHT?
THE FIRE WAS TOO STRONG.


……
AMAZING …
NOW I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF IT!
PLEASE BE CAREFUL WITH IT.
FU HAHA HAHA!
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS?
INTER-ESTING, YOU SAY?


IT'S FASCINATING, I CAN'T NOT LOOK AT IT!
IF YOU DRAW YOUR KATANA, AND *TRULY* LOOK AT IT …
MANY FACES APPEAR.

……
IF YOU OPEN YOUR MIND AND ACCEPT IT …
……

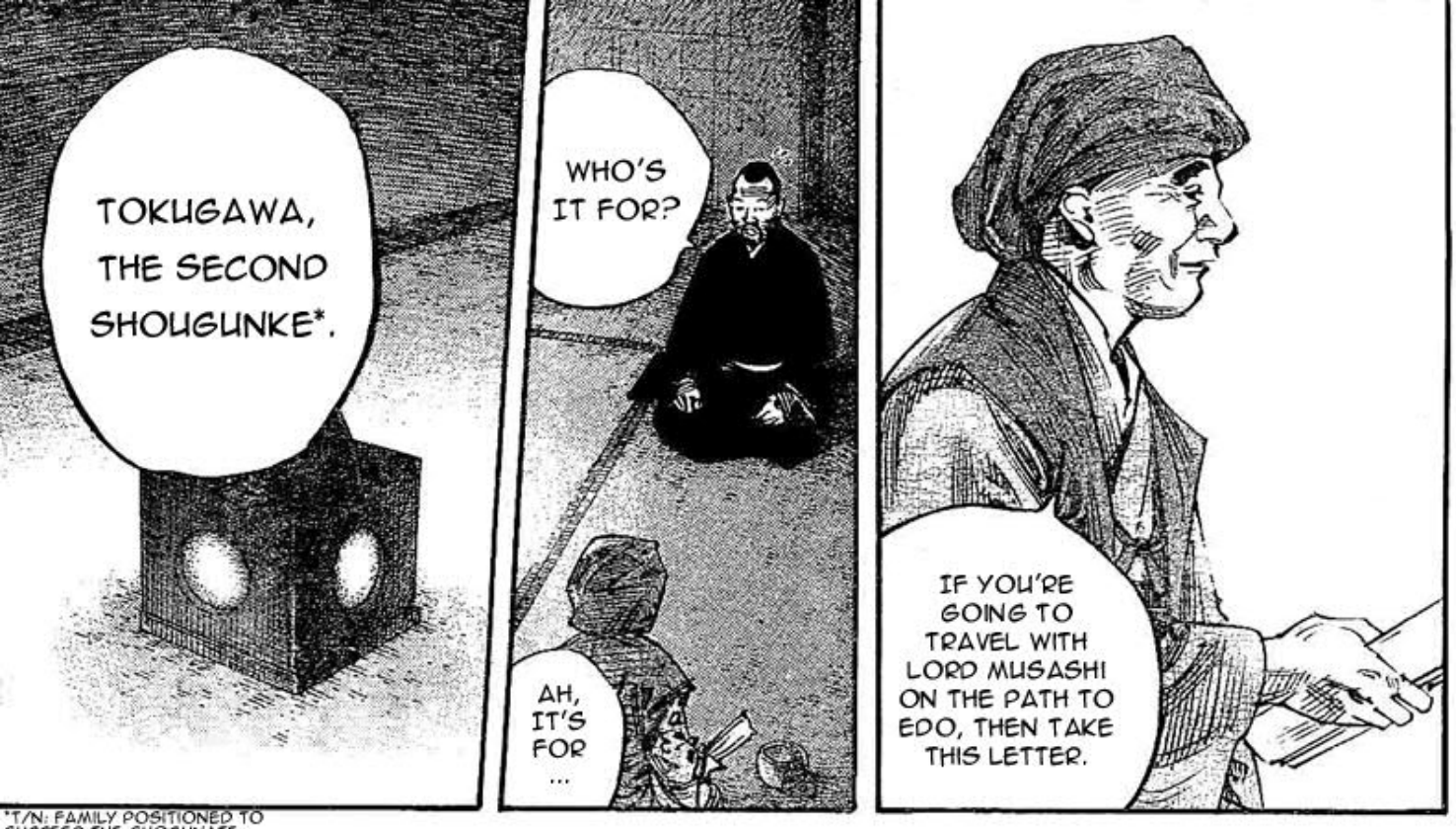
EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD IS BEAUTIFUL BY NATURE...
4
MUSASHI SAID THAT, EARLIER.

KILLING AND MORE KILLING ...
DEATH IS THE RESULT OF CROSSING BLADES.
IF THAT WASN'T HUMAN LIFE,
THEN,
I WOULD HAVE NOTICED BY NOW.
BUT MUSASHI SURVIVED,
AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE.

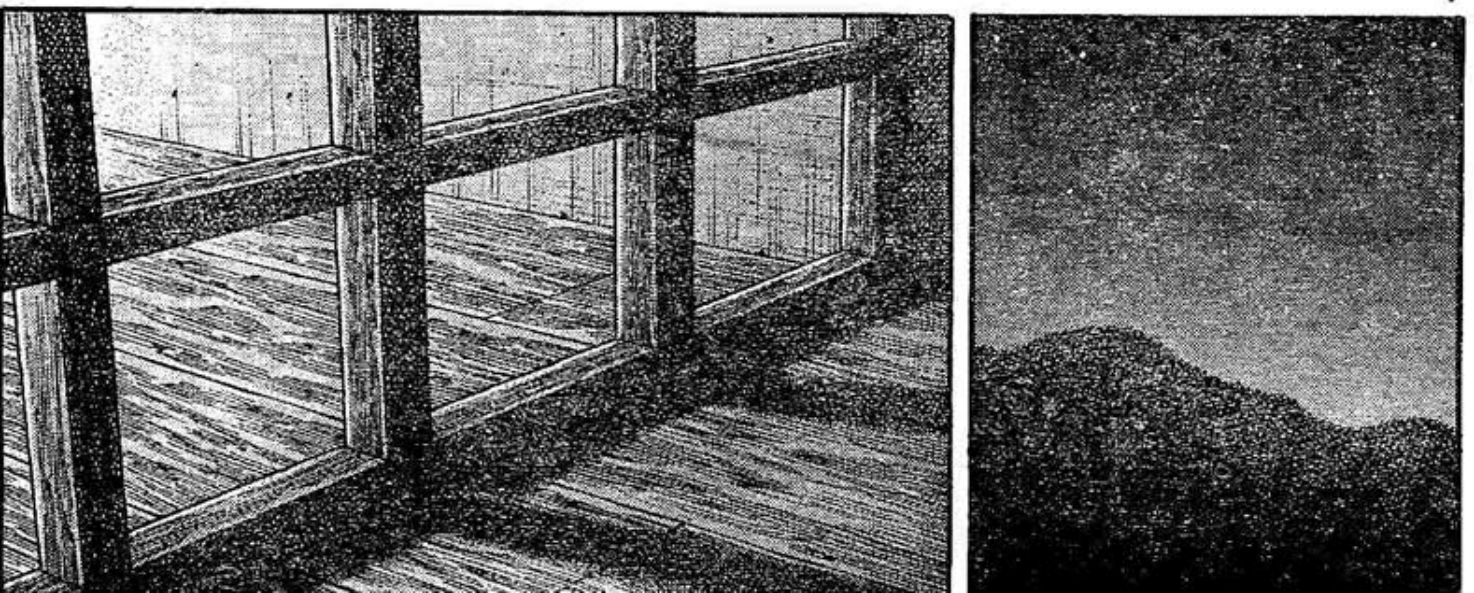
LORD KOUETSU, ABOUT MUSASHI ...

IT'S GOOD THAT YOU CROSSED PATHS WITH HIM.

THANK YOU, AND PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH.

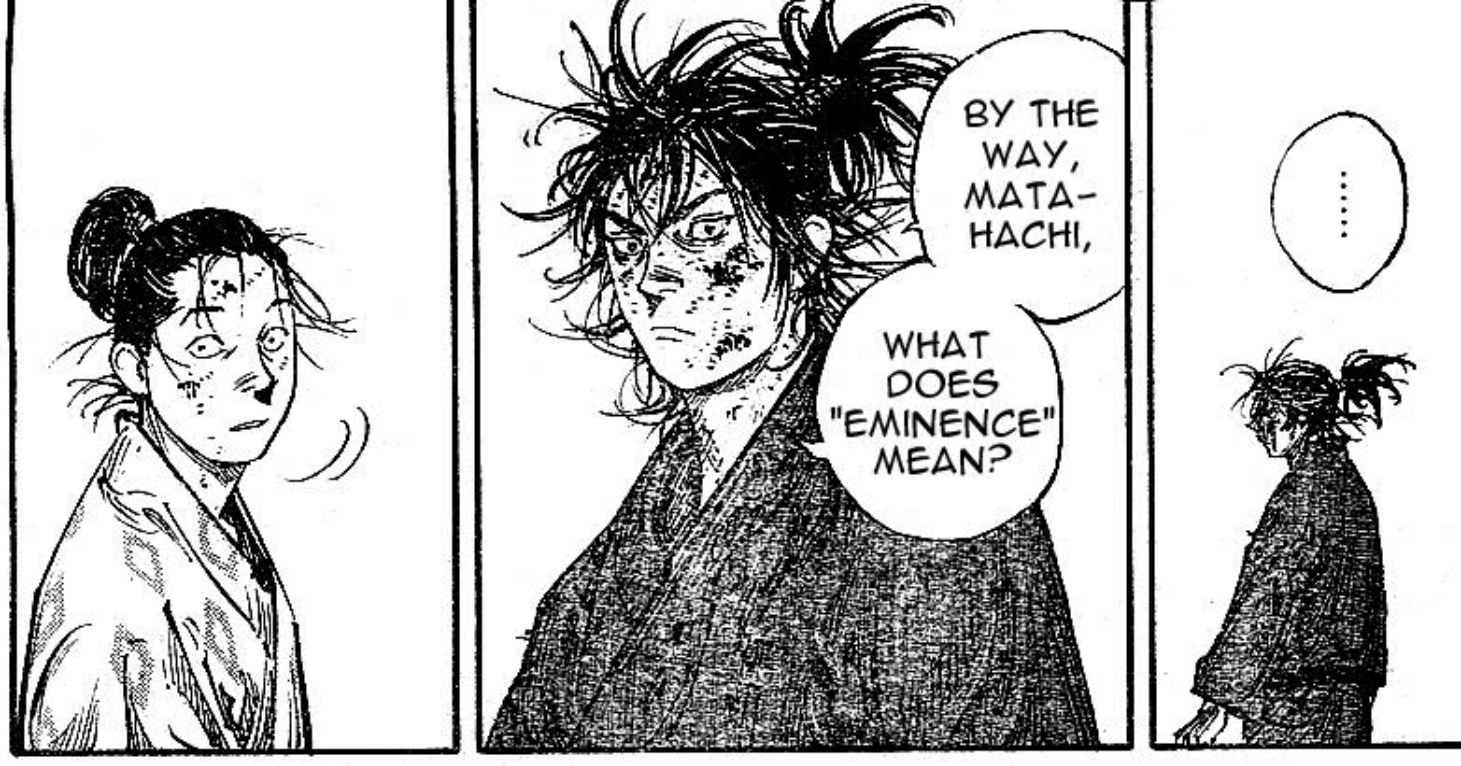


*T/N: FAMILY POSITIONED TO SUCCEED THE SHOGUNATE.



I'M GOING TO RISE TO EMIN- ENCE!
SO WILL I!

SHINMEN TAKEZOU!
ONE DAY, THERE WON'T BE ANYONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW THAT NAME!
YEAH, HONIDEN MATAHACHI, TOO!
HAHA, WE'RE GONNA RISE TO EMINENCE!


BY THE WAY, MATA-HACHI,
WHAT DOES "EMINENCE" MEAN?
.....

A DEAD END, IN THIS PLACE.
IT SEEMS THAT I SAW THE END OF THE PATH I WAS WALKING ...

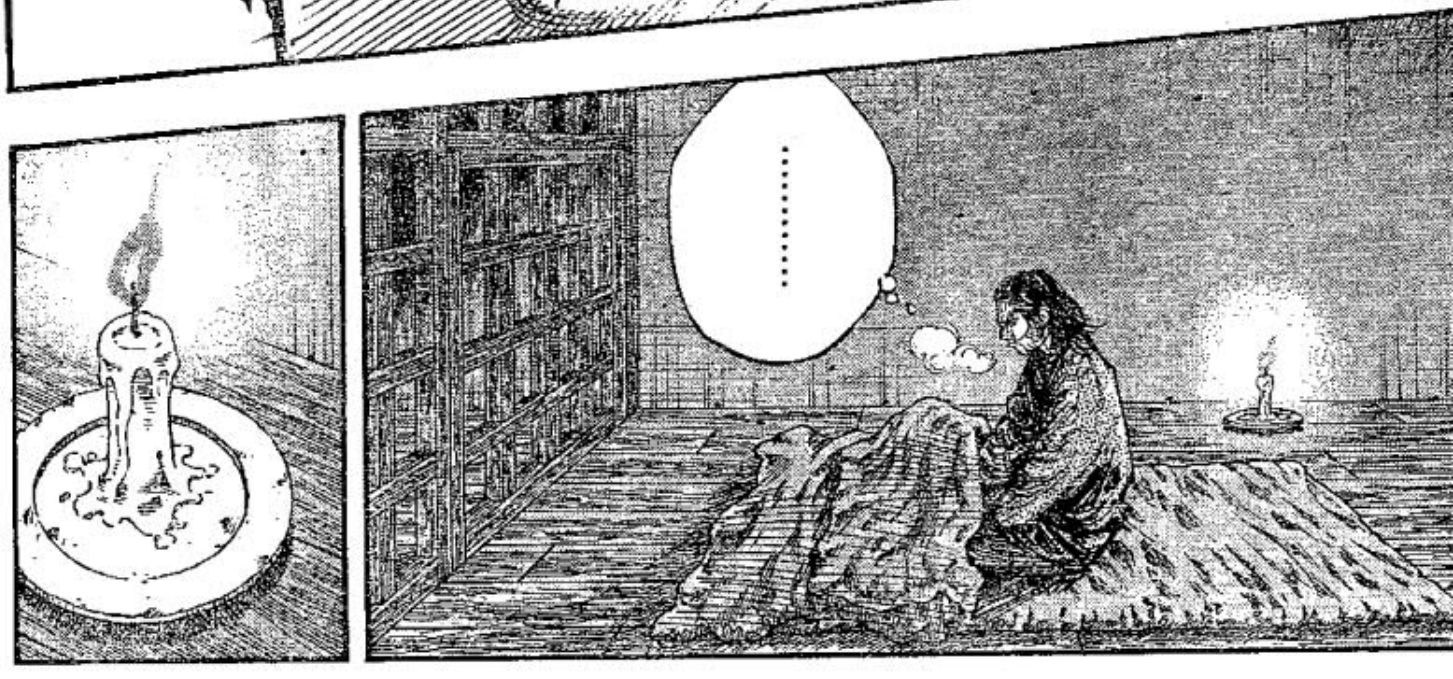
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST LURED BY MY TALKING, BUT ...
YOU'RE REALLY DIFFERENT FROM ME...

HUH? WEREN'T YOU TALKING ABOUT EMINENCE ALL SERIOUSLY?

ALL ALONG, SAYING "HYA, HYA" AND SWINGING THE SWORD, WITHOUT FAIL...
YOU ALONE HAVE ACHIEVED SOMETHING IN THIS WORLD...

HYA, HYA ...

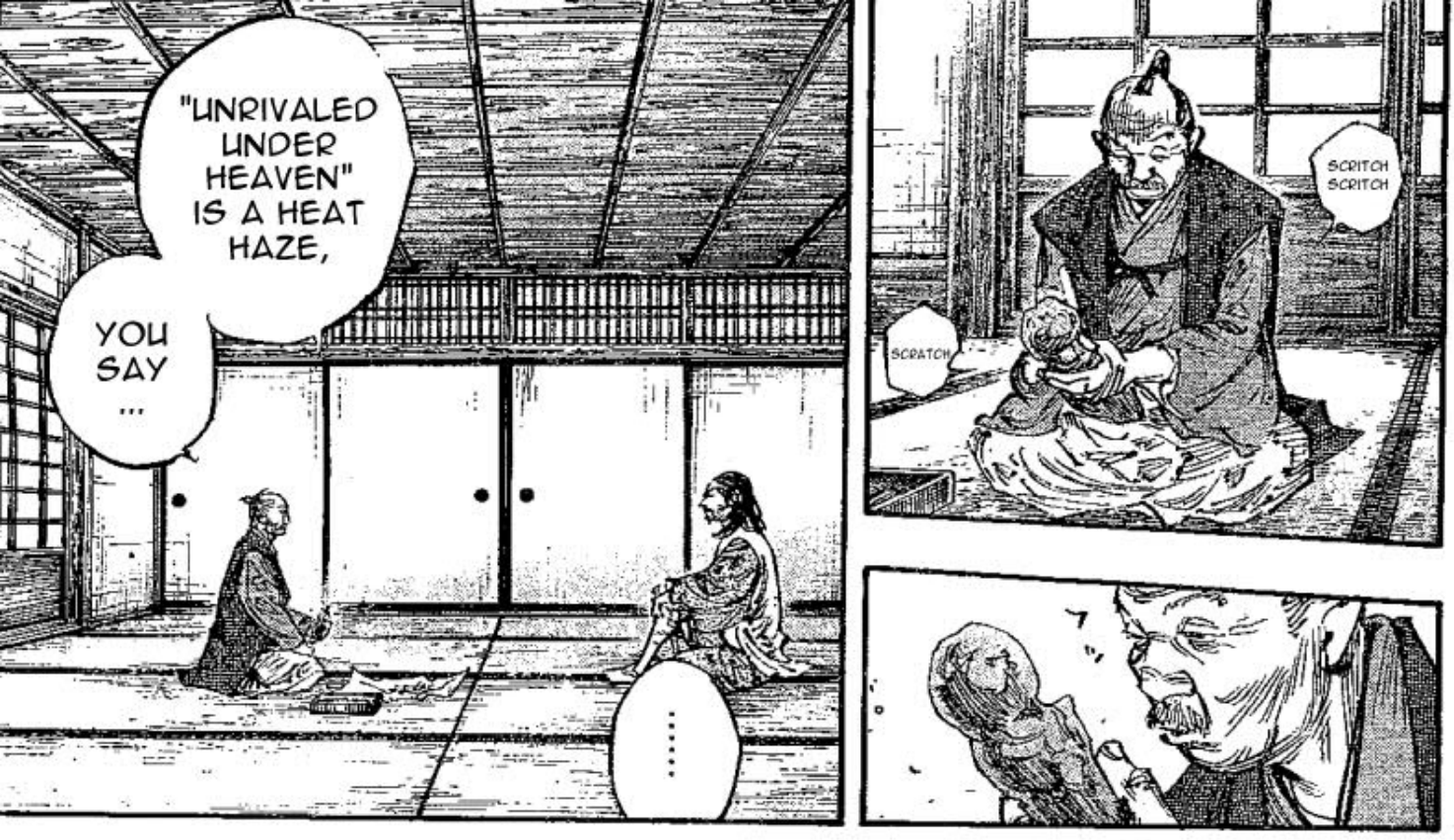
FUFU ...

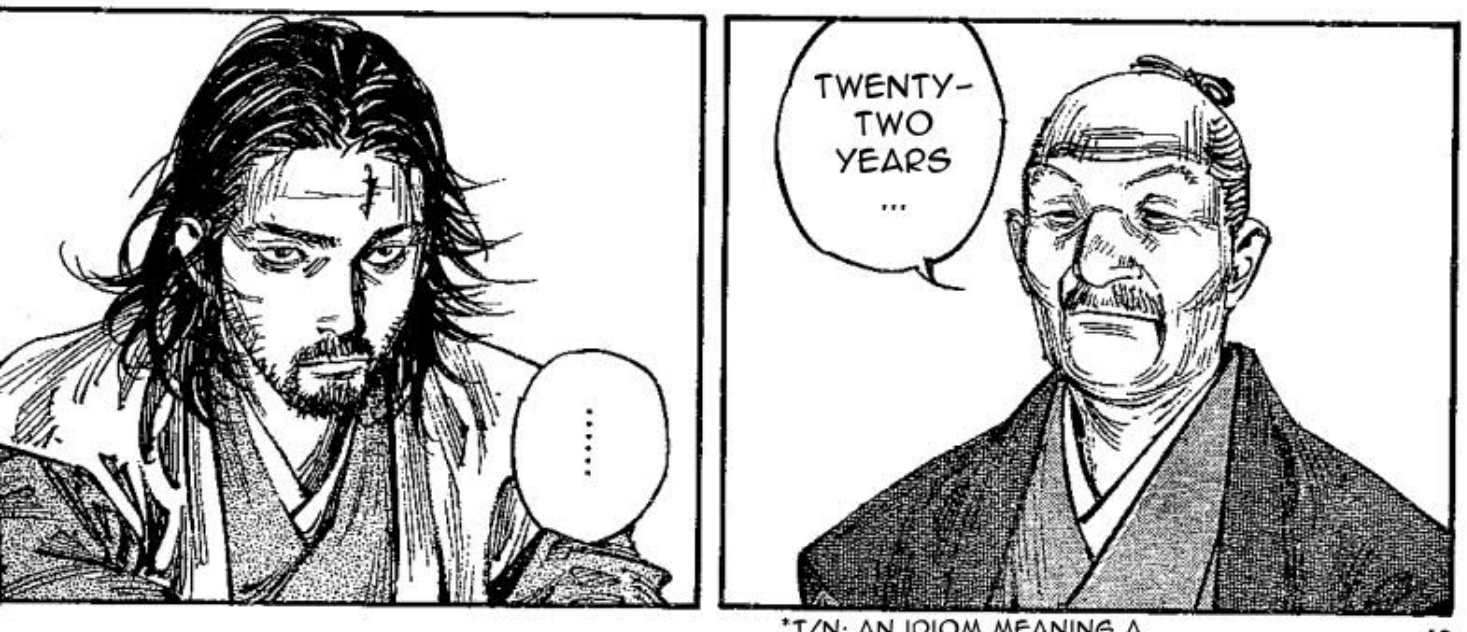

.....

ITAKURA-SAMA IS CALLING FOR YOU ...

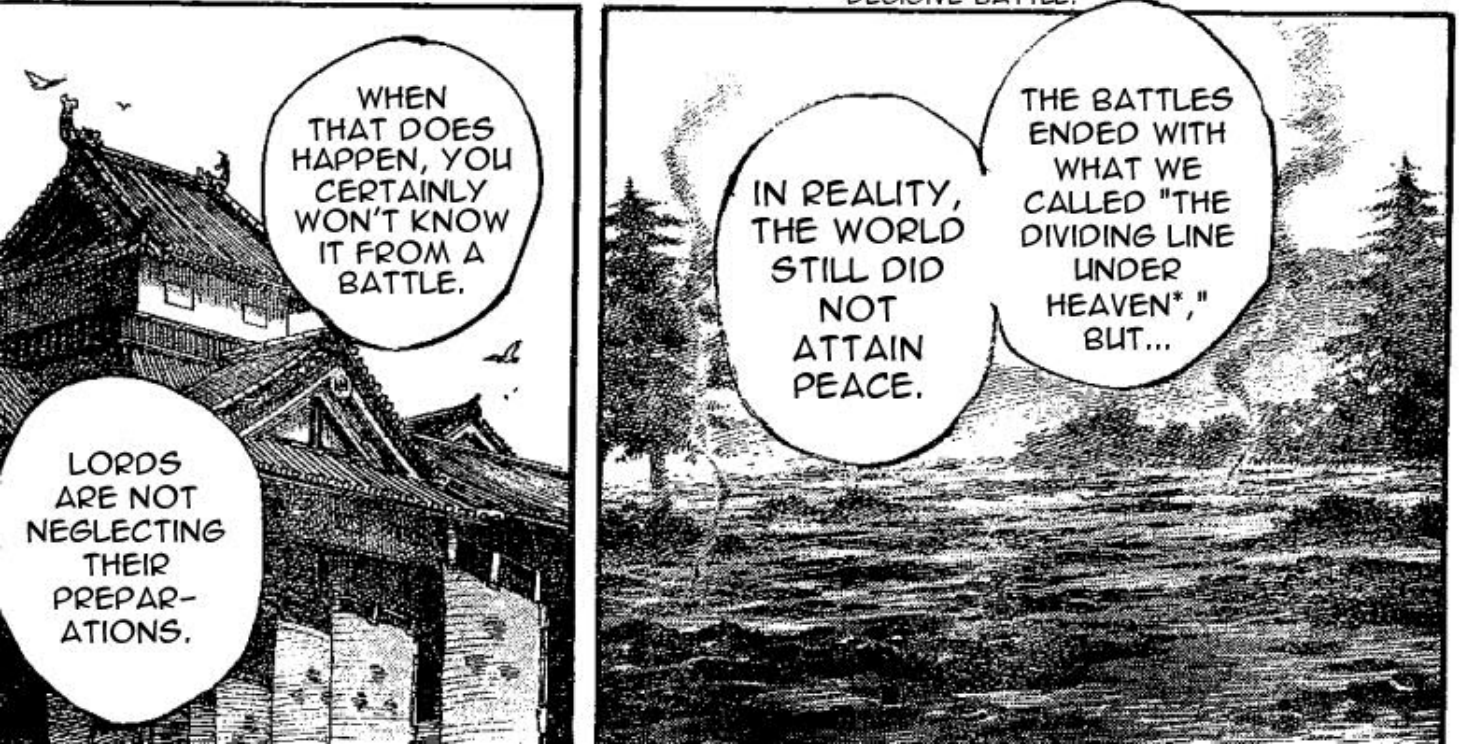
LORD MUS-ASHI ...

YOU FELT LIKE RETREATING ...
BUT, EVERY TIME YOU WON,
YOU WON EVERY FIGHT ...





*T/N: AN IDIOM MEANING A DECISIVE BATTLE.

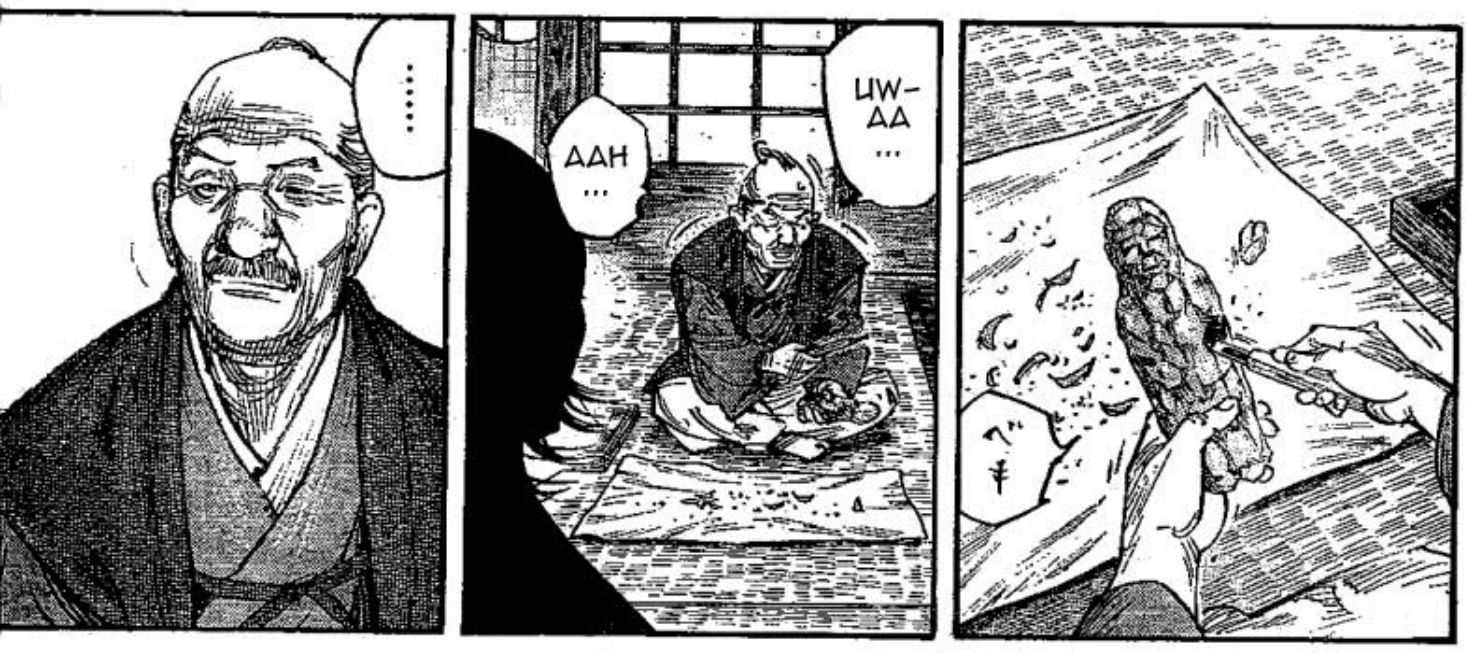


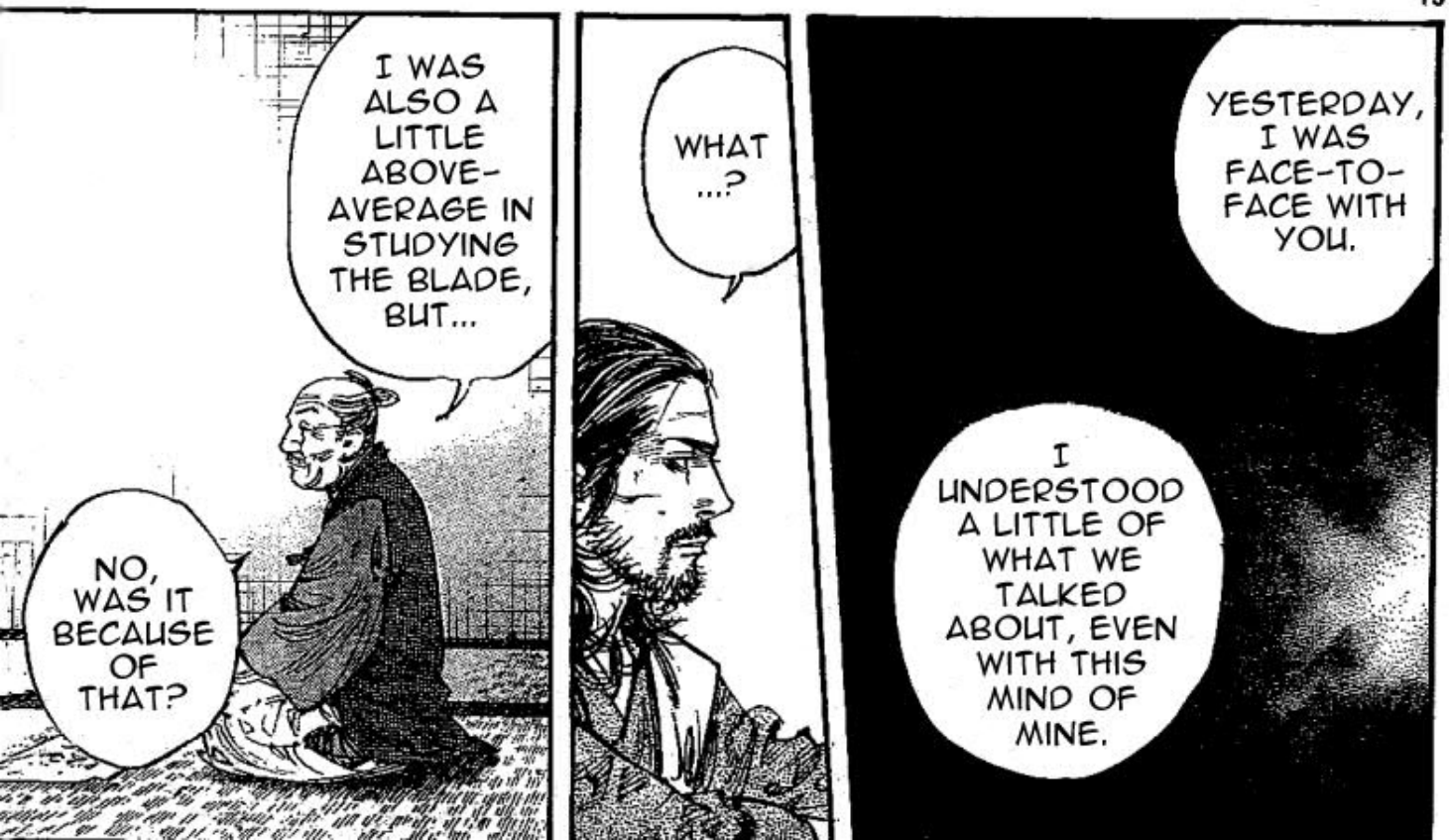
"UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN" IS A HEAT HAZE ...
MUS-ASHI!
YOU STRUGGLED WITH YOURSELF FOR 22 YEARS TO REACH THAT CONCLUSION.
HOW ABOUT JUST TELLING ALL THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY?

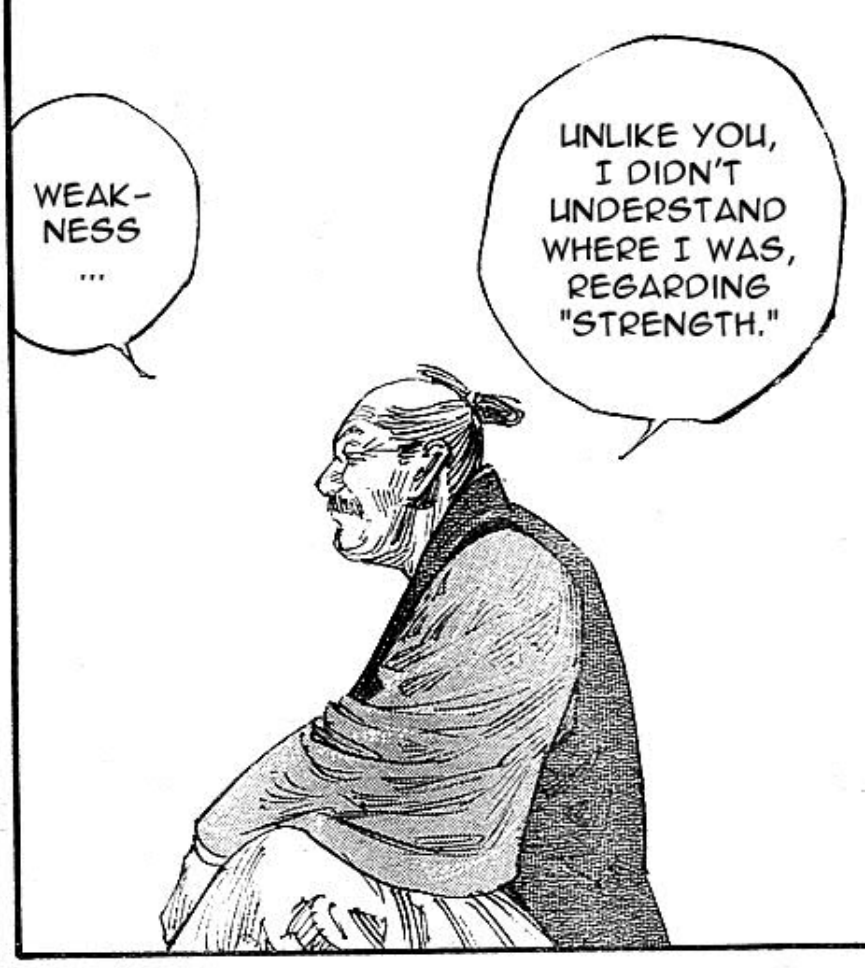
.....
ha?

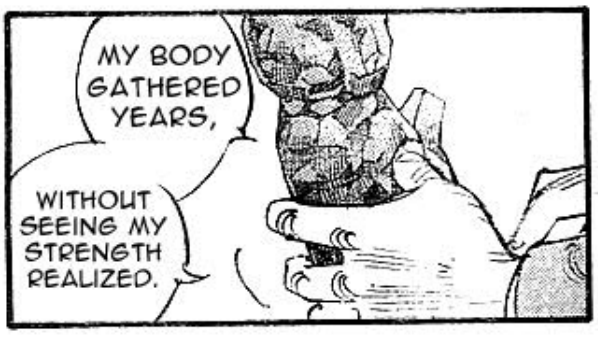
NO ...
.....
THAT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, IF YOU WERE TO WORK UNDER A LORD.

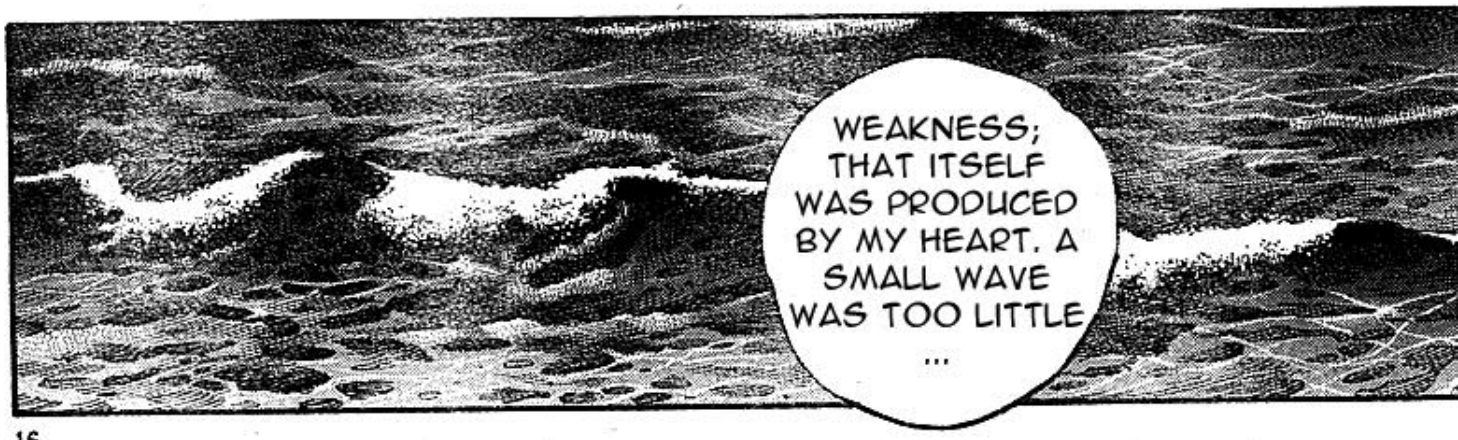
I'D BE TERRIBLE AT THAT ...


.....
AAH ...
UW-AA ...
ベキ

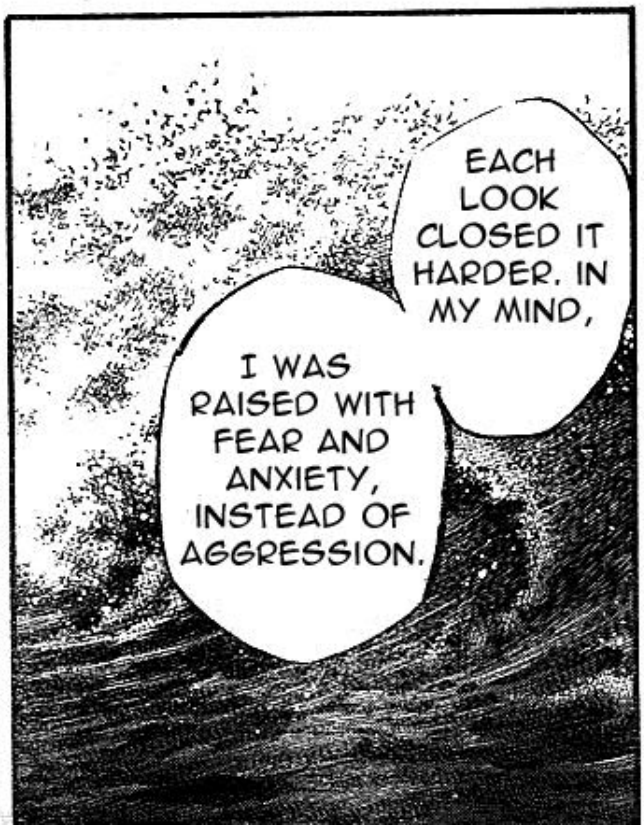

I WAS ALSO A LITTLE ABOVE-AVERAGE IN STUDYING THE BLADE, BUT...
NO, WAS IT BECAUSE OF THAT?
WHAT ...?
YESTERDAY, I WAS FACE-TO-FACE WITH YOU.
I UNDERSTOOD A LITTLE OF WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT, EVEN WITH THIS MIND OF MINE.


WEAK-
NESS
...
UNLIKE YOU, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHERE I WAS, REGARDING "STRENGTH."


MY BODY GATHERED YEARS,
WITHOUT SEEING MY STRENGTH REALIZED.


WEAKNESS; THAT ITSELF WAS PRODUCED BY MY HEART. A SMALL WAVE WAS TOO LITTLE ...

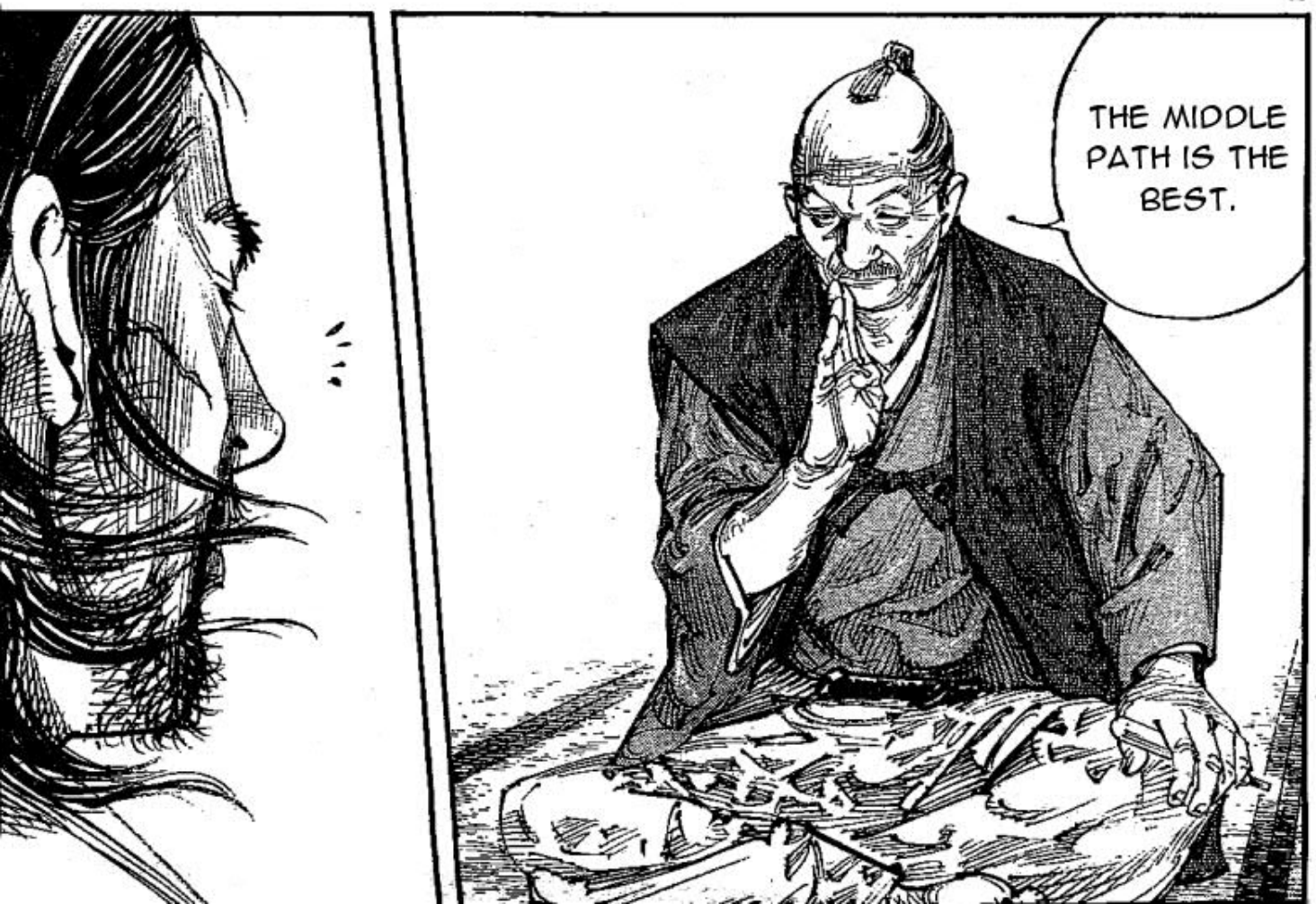
THAT REVERSAL IS STILL TROUBLE-SOME.
I RESPECT YOU, AND I WANT TO BE MORE LIKE YOU.


EACH LOOK CLOSED IT HARDER. IN MY MIND,
I WAS RAISED WITH FEAR AND ANXIETY, INSTEAD OF AGGRESSION.

IF I SWUNG TO THE PATH OF ANXIETY, I CLOSED MY HEART.

IF YOU'RE STRONG, WHAT CAN YOU DO?
.....
WE ARE DIFFER-ENT!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU,
FOR THE COMPL-ETION OF THAT TENDENCY OF MINE.
TO CLOSE YOUR EYES IS THE SAME AS TO OPEN YOUR MIND.

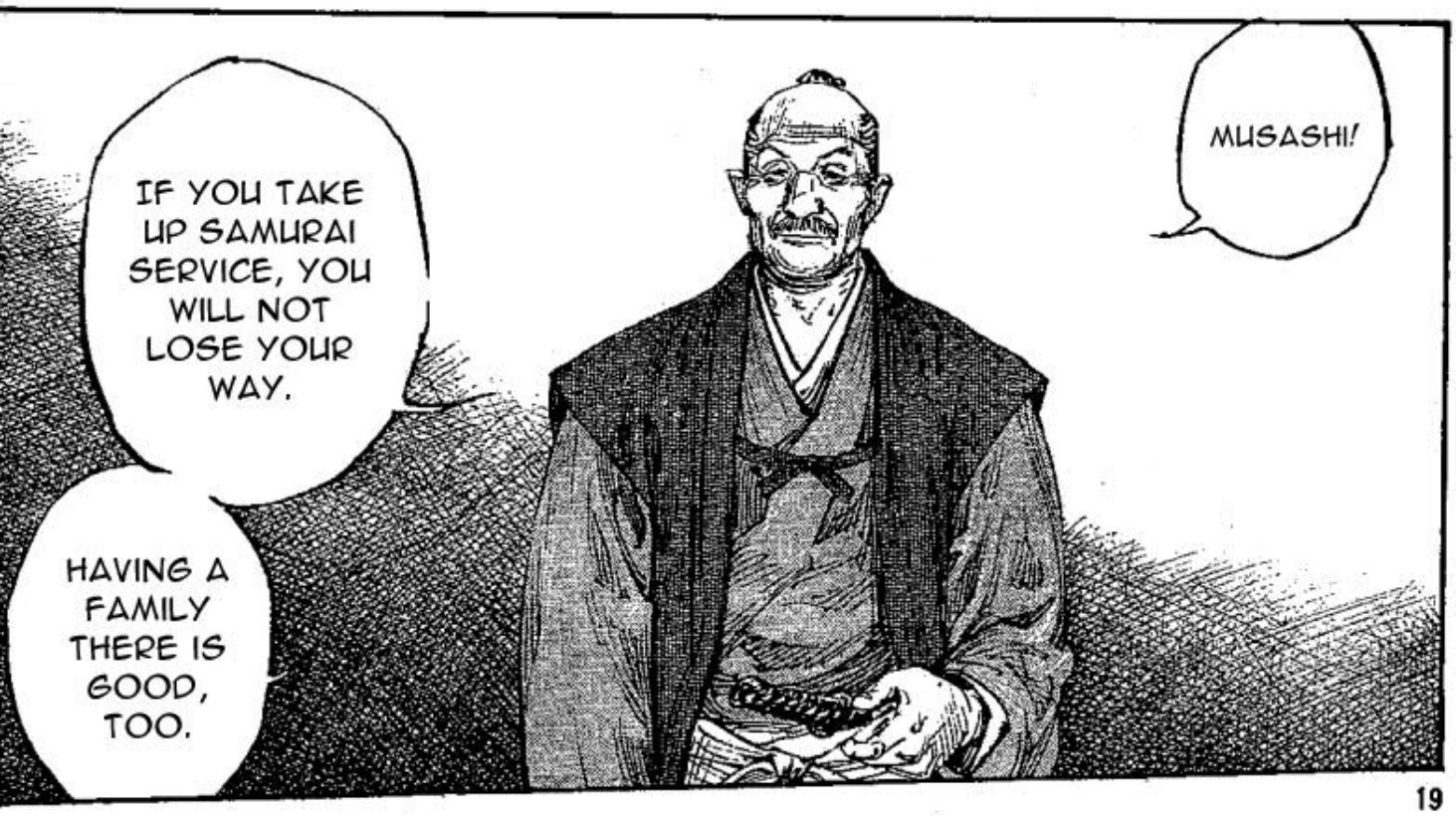
THERE ARE ALWAYS CROSSROADS TINSIDE THE MIND.
OH?
SORRY, HAHA
I'M DONE WITH MY RAMBL-ING, HAHAHA.
SINCE YOU UNDER-STOOD IT YESTERDAY, I SPOKE QUICKLY.
UH ...
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS CONFUSING! I DON'T GET IT, BUT ...

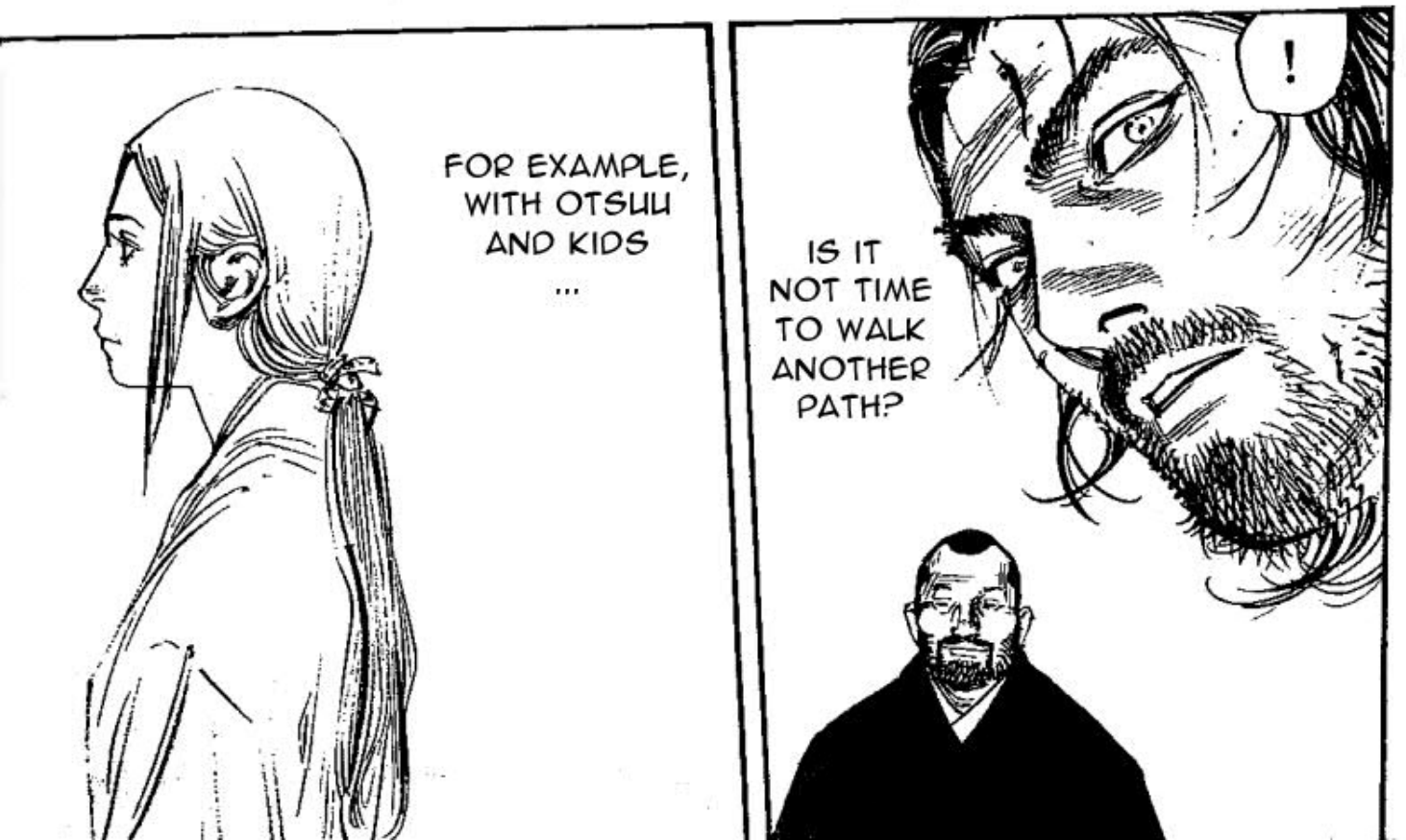

THE MIDDLE PATH IS THE BEST.

...
I
UNDERSTAND
THAT.

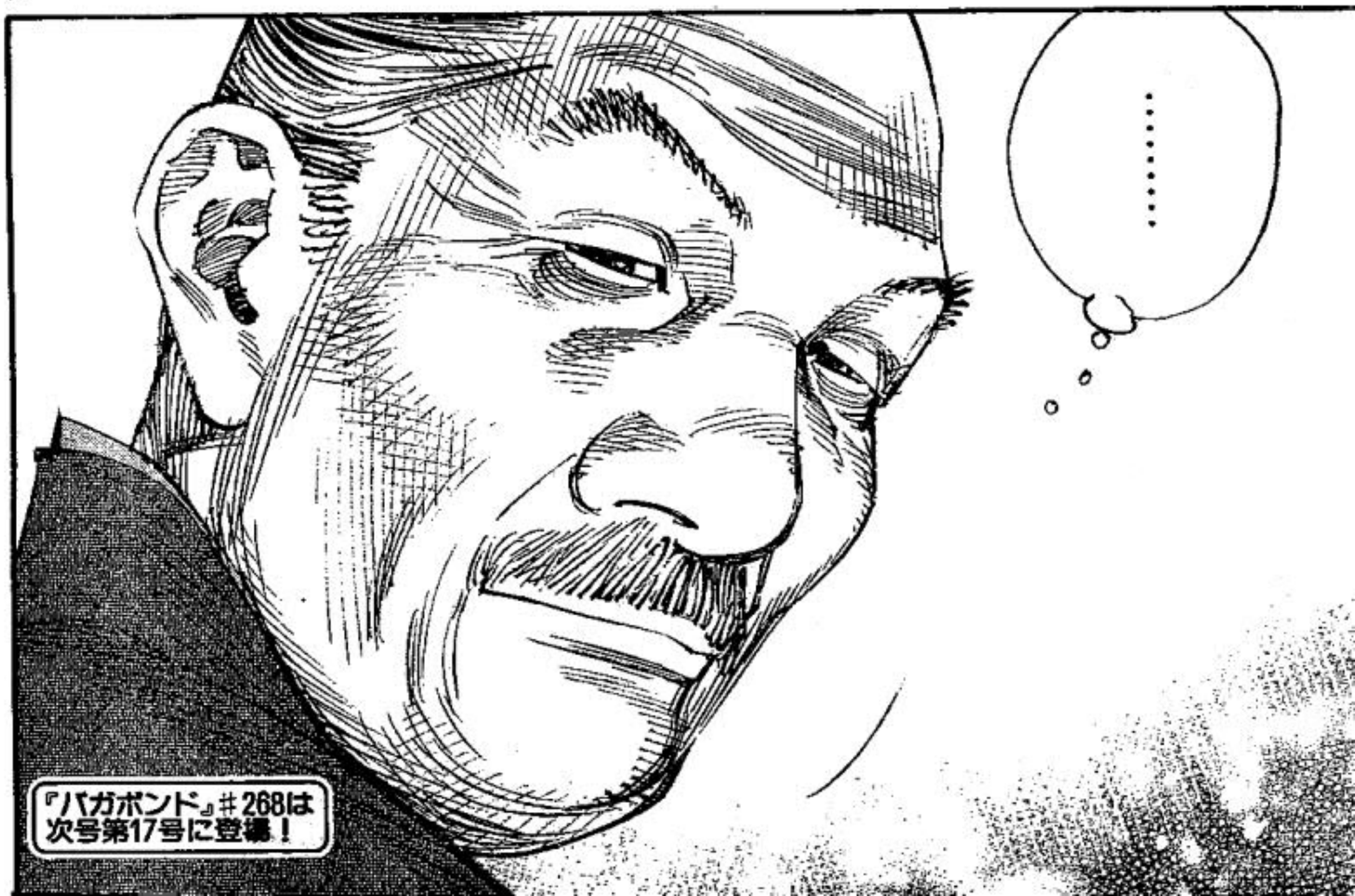
THAT'S A GOOD WALKING STICK.
IT'S STILL WEAK-NESS.
THE MIDDLE WAY ...
.....
AT THE SAME TIME.
WE SHALL TALK AGAIN TOMORROW.

.....?
I SEE ...
I AM CURIOUS TO HEAR YOUR WHOLE STORY, MUSASHI!
I WAS ASSIGNED A GUARD.


MUSASHI!
IF YOU TAKE UP SAMURAI SERVICE, YOU WILL NOT LOSE YOUR WAY.
HAVING A FAMILY THERE IS GOOD, TOO.


FOR EXAMPLE, WITH OTSUU AND KIDS ...
!
IS IT NOT TIME TO WALK ANOTHER PATH?

I ALREADY KNEW THAT, SO WHY SHOULD I DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO GO THAT FAR?
MUS-ASHI ...
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO?
IT'S POSSIBLE TO END THE FIGHTING; GIVE YOUR ANSWER TO THAT ONE AT THAT PLACE.
IT'S NO GOOD, BESID-ES...
TELL HER?
.....
WHY SHOULD I GO SO FAR AS TO...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怒濤の最新刊第29巻、絶賛発売中!

バガボンド

VAGABOND

原作：吉川英治「宮本武蔵」より

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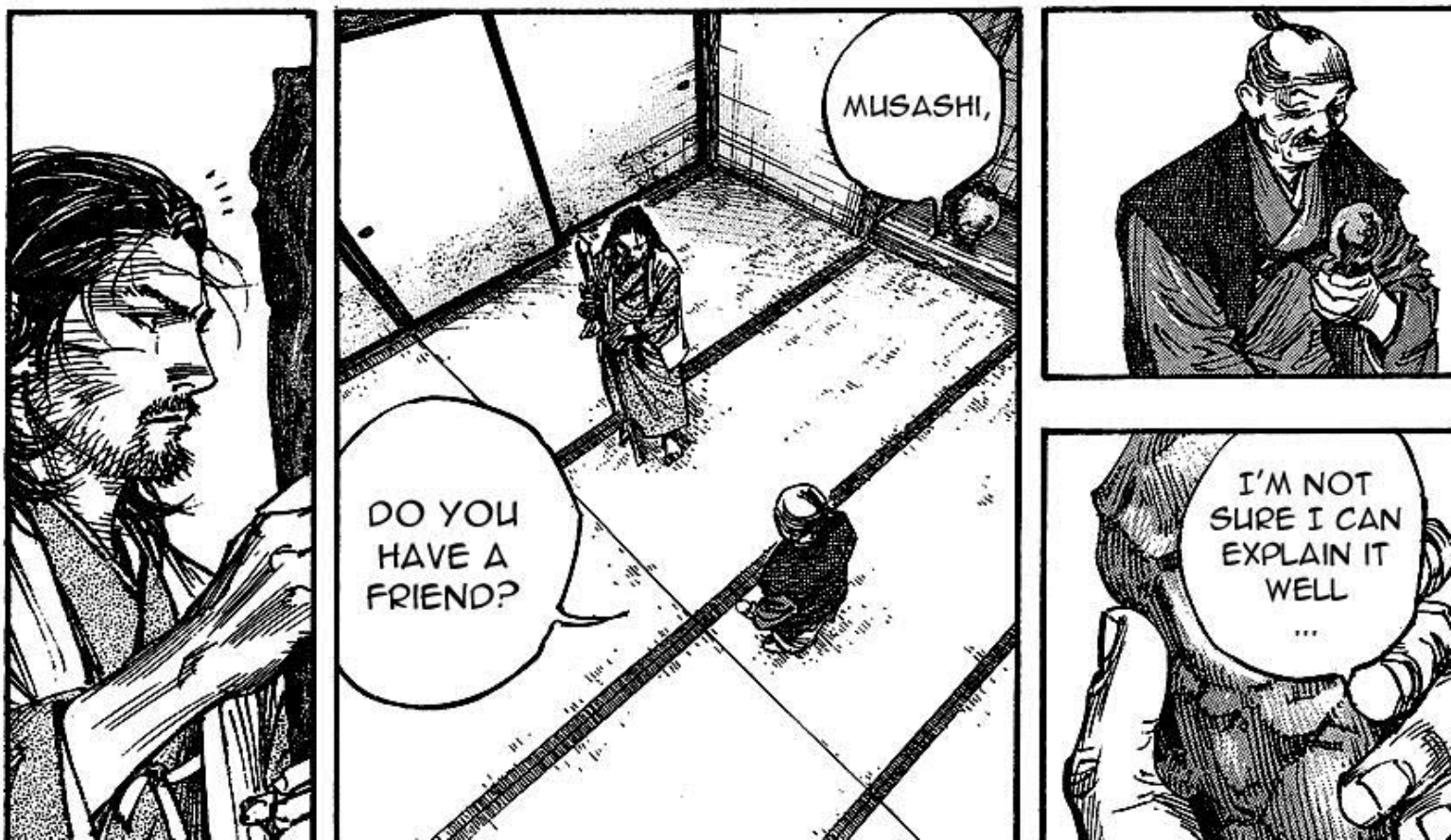
#268 on the edge of the sword

THAT FUTURE.

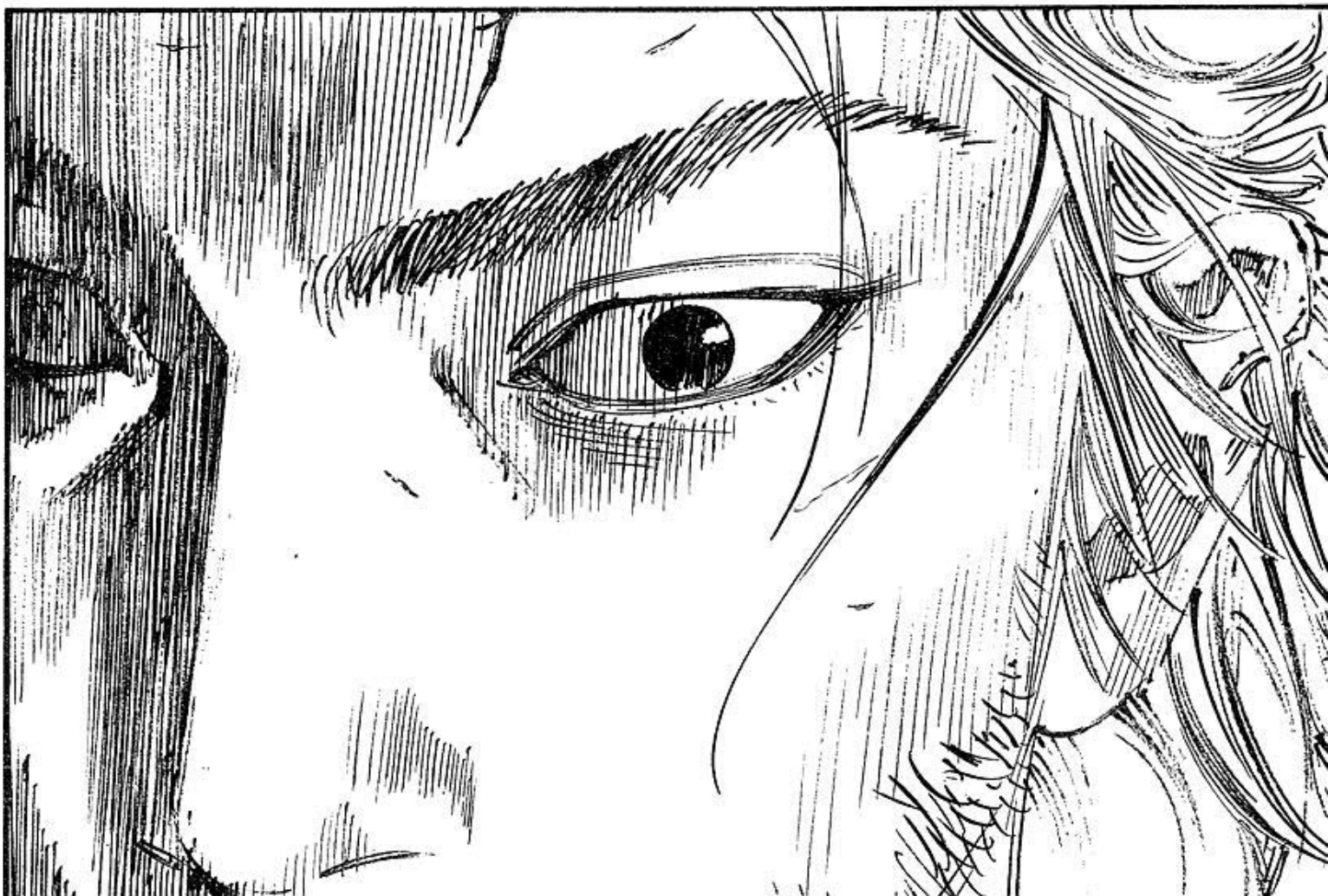
WELL, NOW ...
WHAT IS IT, EXACTLY?
.....

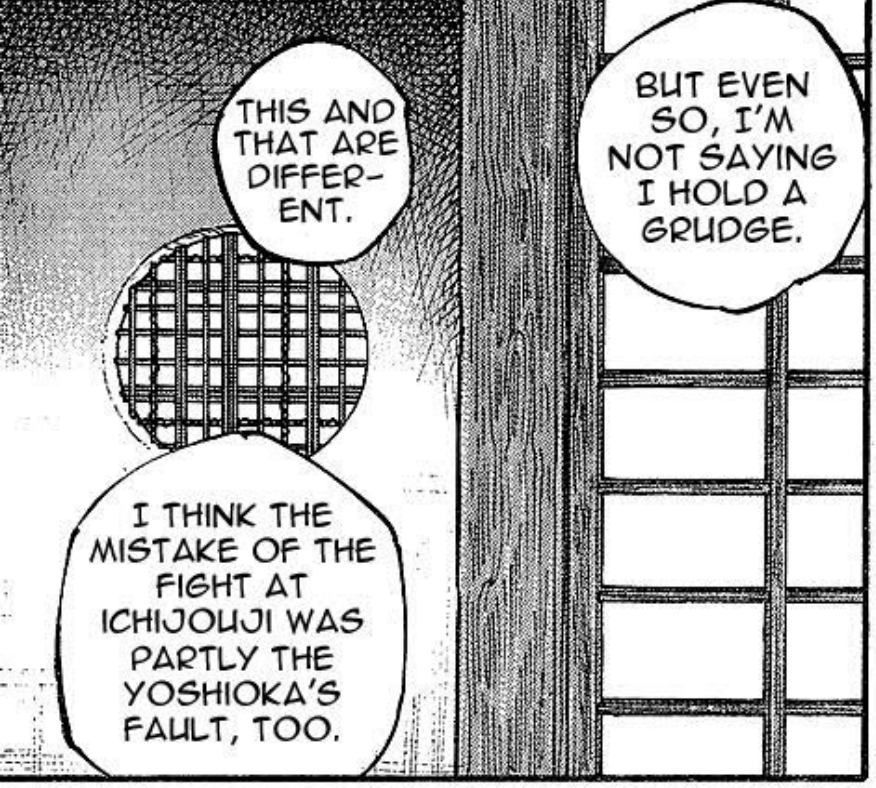
2

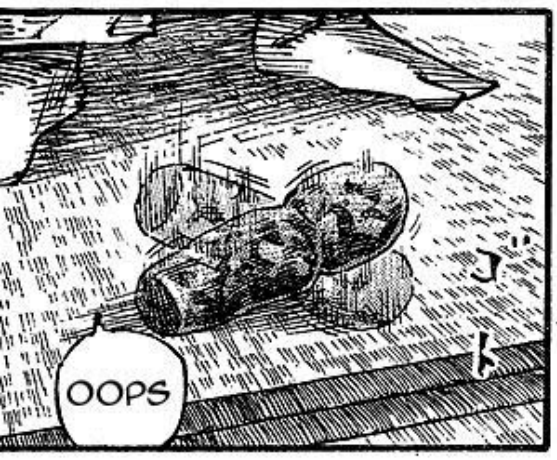

MUSASHI,
DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND?
I'M NOT SURE I CAN EXPLAIN IT WELL ...

*MASTER KENPOU, THE FATHER OF SEIJUUROU AND DENSHICHIROU.

4




THIS AND THAT ARE DIFFER-ENT.
BUT EVEN SO, I'M NOT SAYING I HOLD A GRUDGE.
I THINK THE MISTAKE OF THE FIGHT AT ICHIJOUJI WAS PARTLY THE YOSHIOKA'S FAULT, TOO.


OOPS

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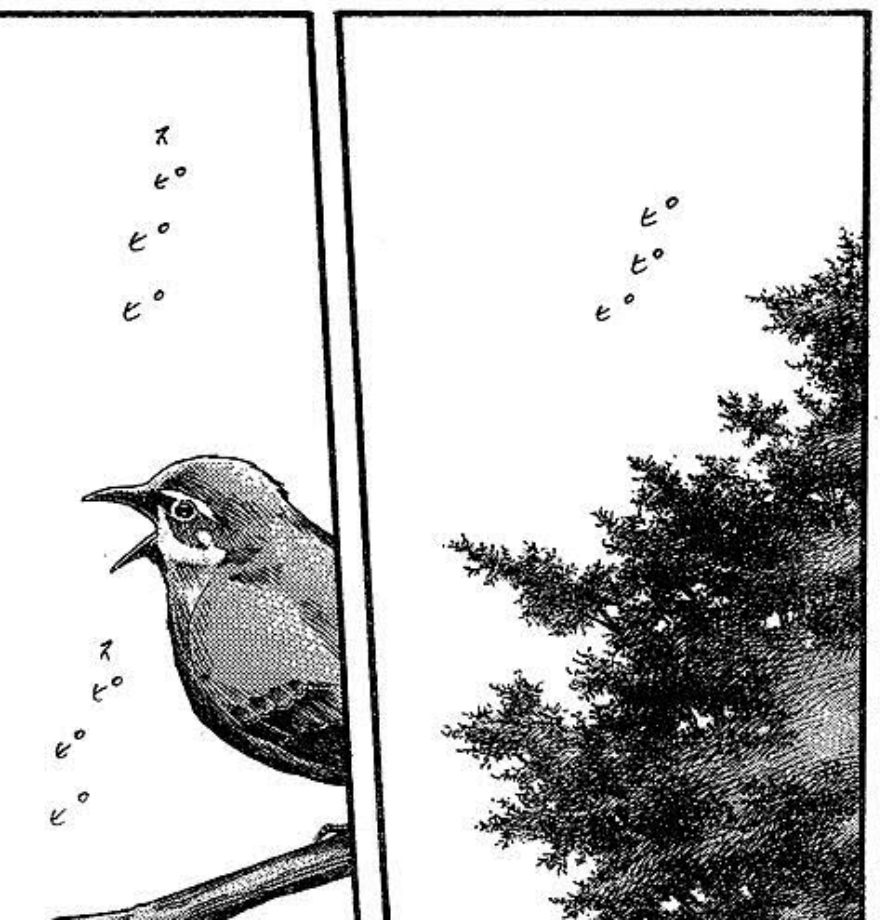
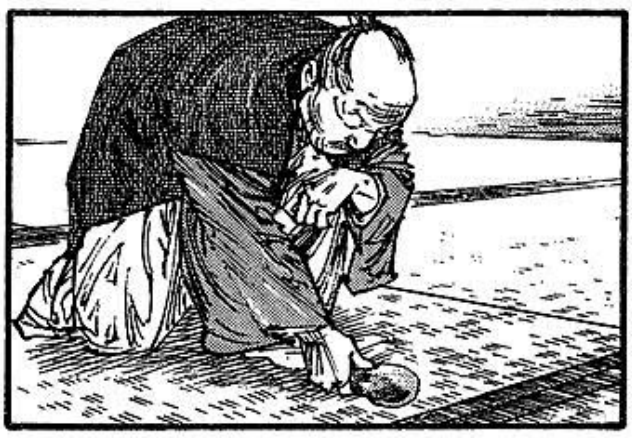




……

THEN, EVERY TIME YOU FACED SOMEONE,
HOWEVER, IF EVERYONE WAS AS STRONG AS YOU ARE,
YOUR HEART WOULD POUND WITH ADRENALINE. BUT IF YOU'RE ABLE TO TAKE THE MIDDLE PATH,

THERE WOULD BE NO FIGHT.

FIGHTING WOULD BE UNNECESS-ARY,
DON'T YOU THINK?

NO, I...

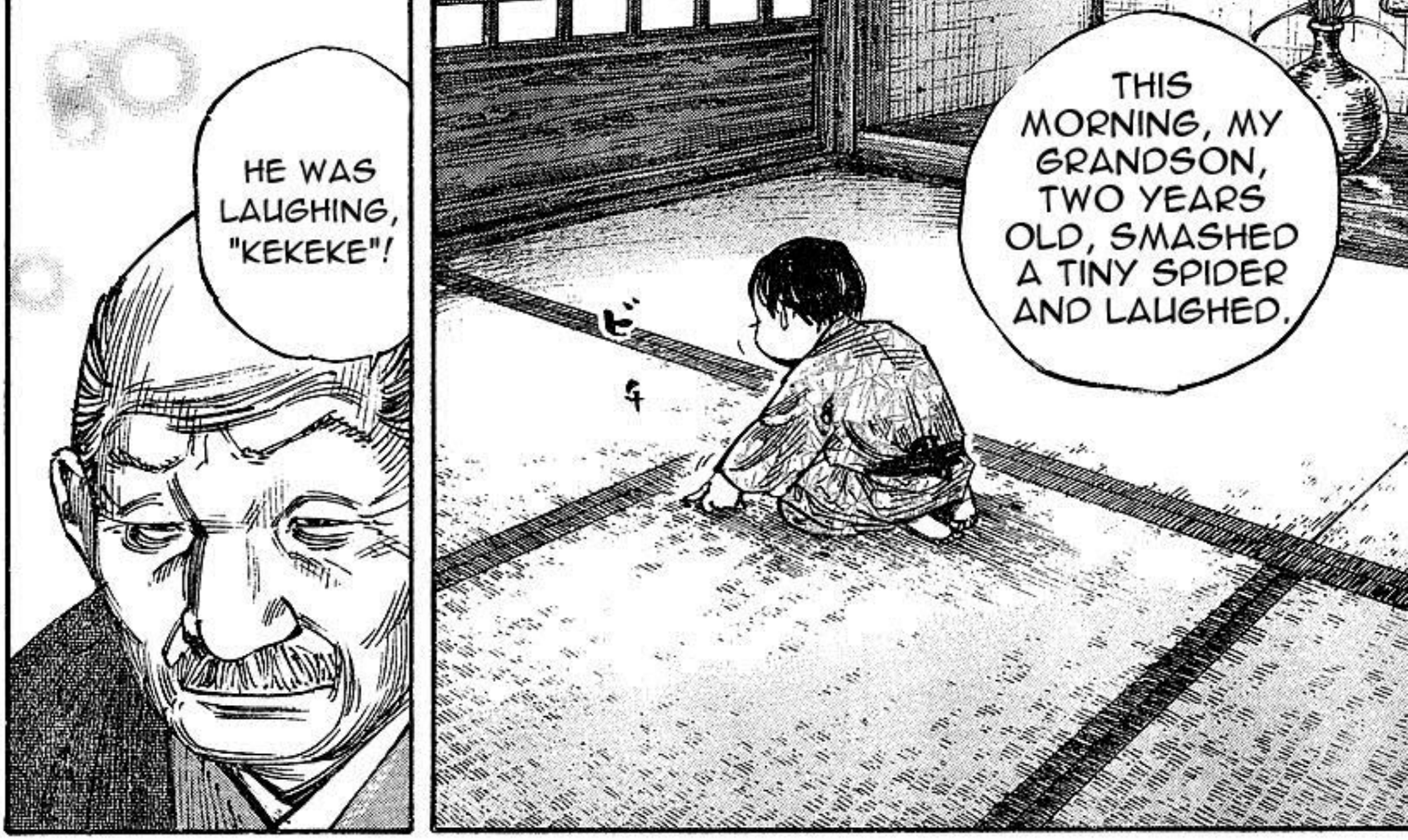
t°
t°
t°

.....

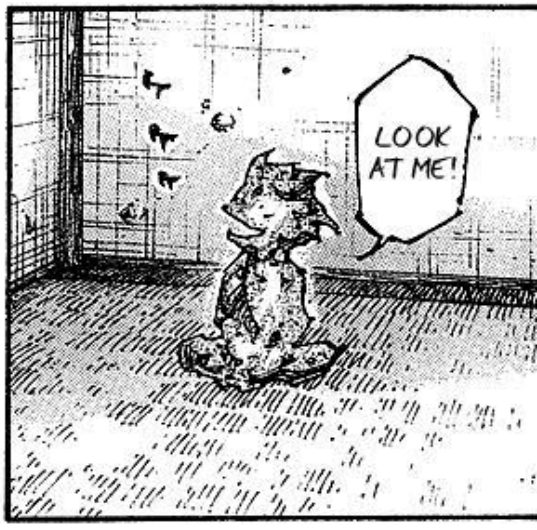
THEREFORE, YOU COULD SIMPLY GET ALONG PEACEFULLY WITH THE PERSON.
YOU'D HAVE GOTTEN IT, THEN -- THE ANSWER OF "STRENGTH."

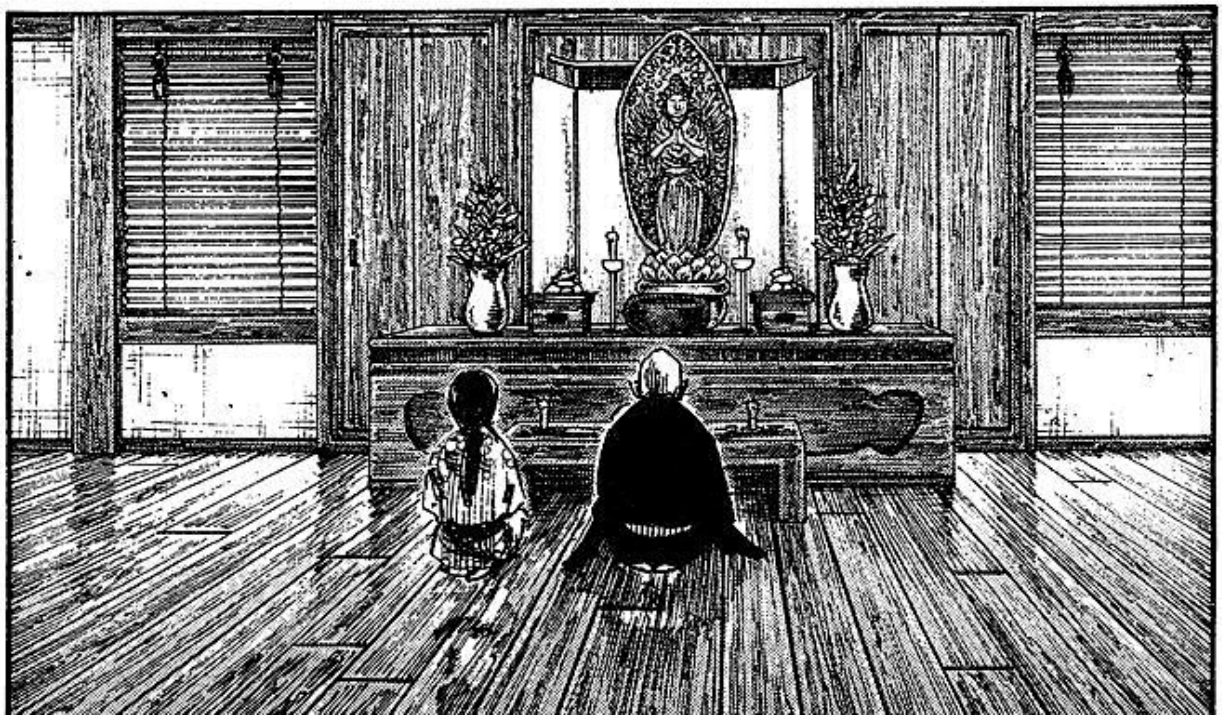
IS FIGHTING NEEDED TO GET TO THAT POINT?
OUR CHILDREN ...
OUR GRAND-CHILDREN ...
OR ...
IF "STRENGTH" IS ONLY OUR ABILITY TO KILL EACH OTHER, CAN YOU REALLY ATTAIN IT?
OUR FUTURE, AND US ...

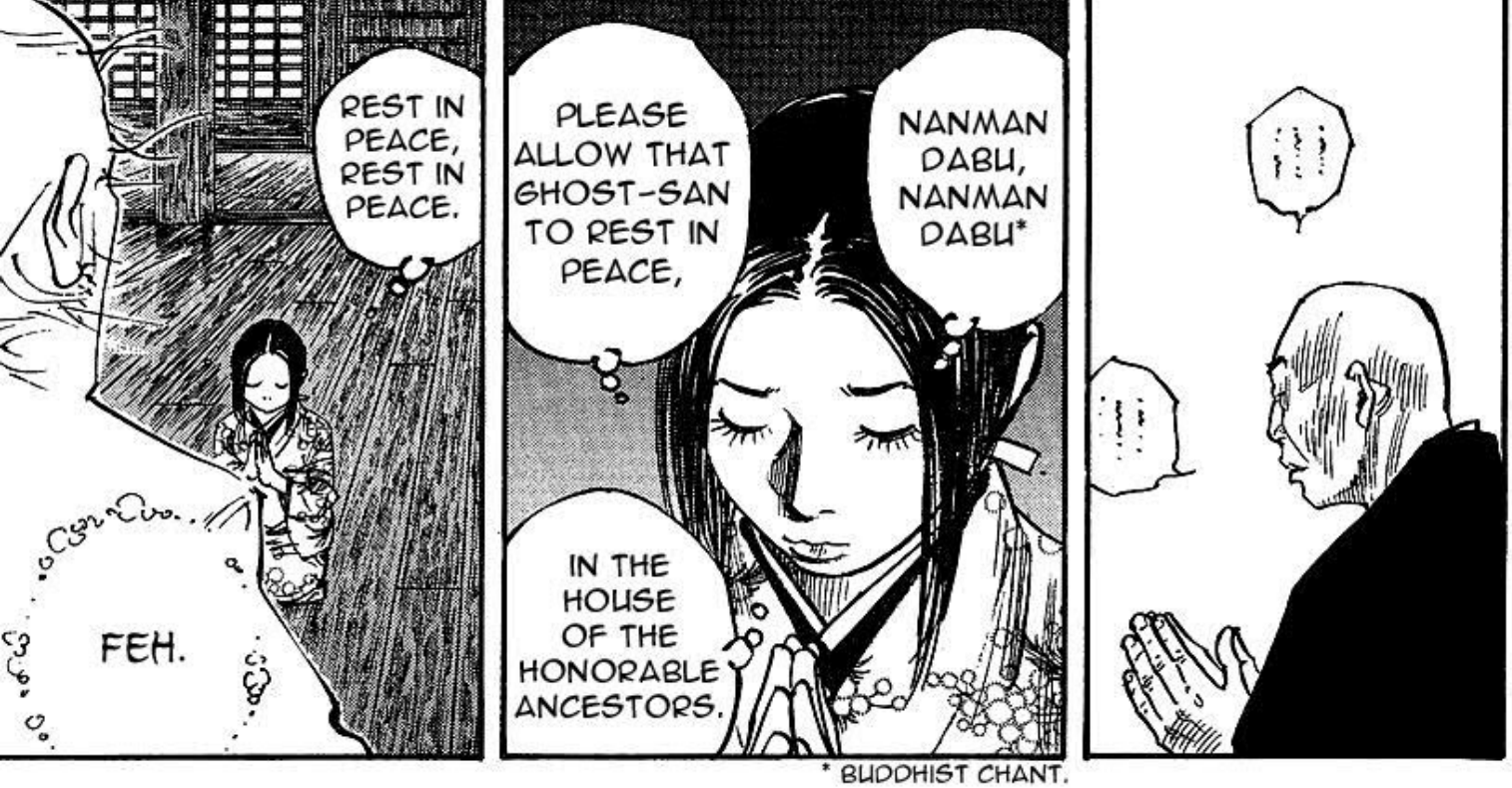
THAT'S FITTING OF THE SHOSHIDAE, OLD MAN, BUT...
BAH, SURE.
WHAT A WEAK THING TO SAY.
IS CONTINUING TO FIGHT REALLY FEASIBLE?
.....
I DON'T REALLY GET IT.
I DON'T HAVE KIDS...
.....


THIS MORNING, MY GRANDSON, TWO YEARS OLD, SMASHED A TINY SPIDER AND LAUGHED.
HE WAS LAUGHING, "KEKEKE"!

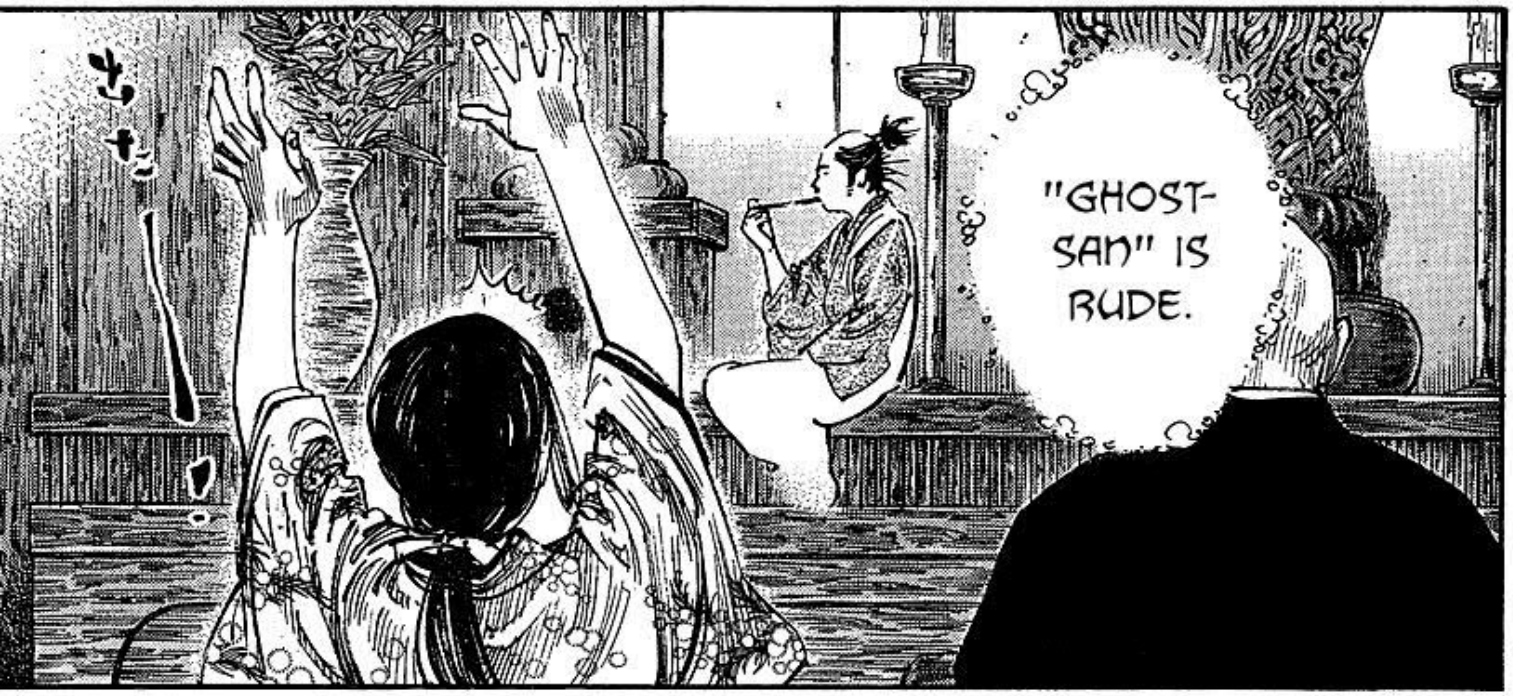
.....


LOOK AT ME!





* BUDDHIST CHANT.

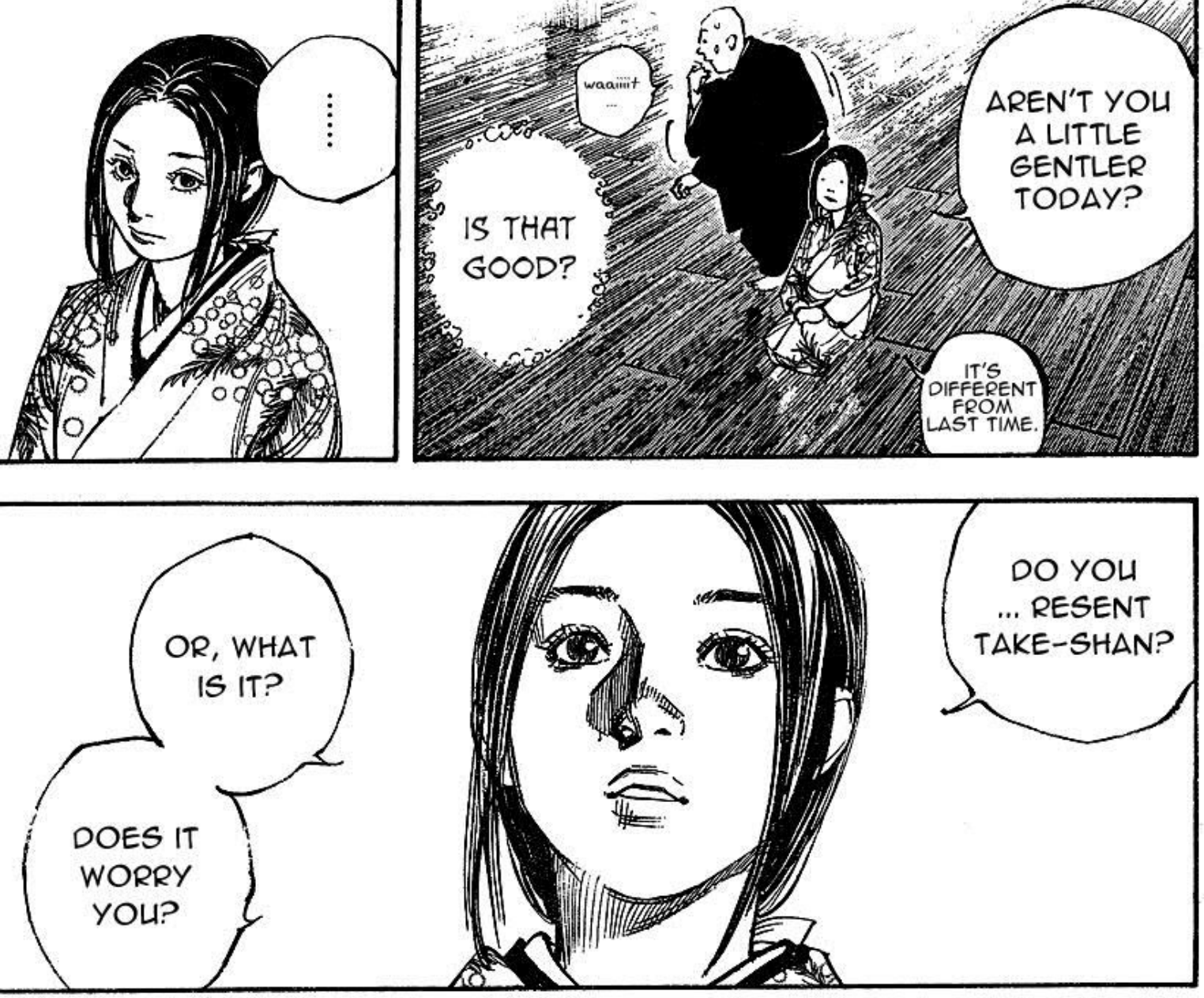


BUT YOU'RE VISITING ME FOR NO REASON!
AH, DON'T YOU HAVE FEET?
AT ANY RATE, GO VISIT HIM YOURSELF!
I'M A FRIEND OF HIS, A CHILDHOOD FRIEND, BUT ...
WHEN YOU GET TO HIM, *THEN* YOU CAN ASK "WHY?"

WH... WHO ARE YOU TALKING WITH, OTSUU-SAN?
.....
? ?
YOUR FACE ...
ARE YOU... THAT SAME GHOST-SAN?
YOUR EAR IS BACK TO NORMAL ...

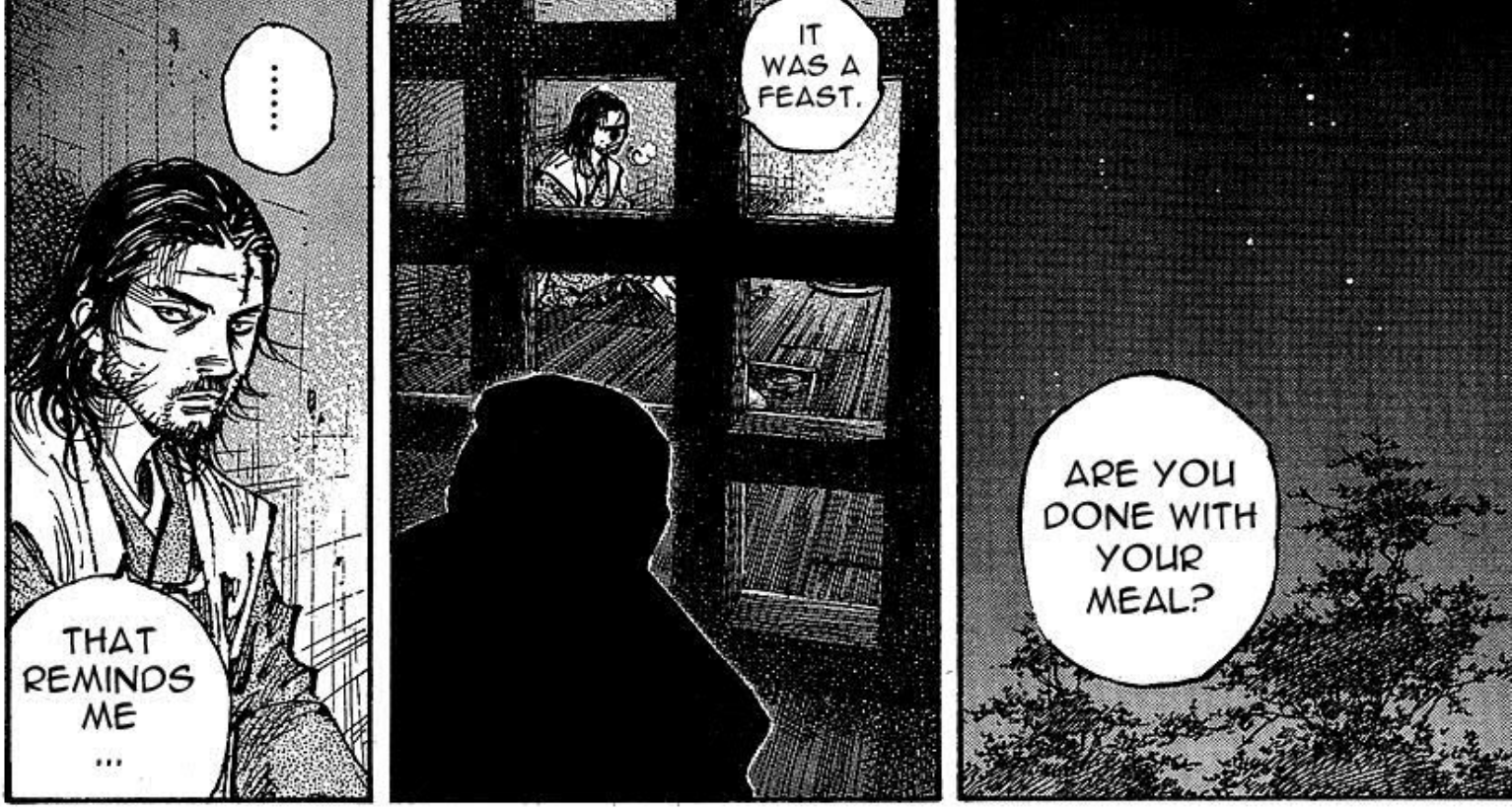
.....
HM?

HEY...
MUSASHI WILL DIE VERY SOON!


……
waaiiit
……
IS THAT GOOD?
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE GENTLER TODAY?
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM LAST TIME.

DO YOU … RESENT TAKE-SHAN?
OR, WHAT IS IT?
DOES IT WORRY YOU?

……
I RESENT HIM, BUT …
I SORT OF DON'T WANT HIM TO DIE.


.....
THAT REMINDS ME ...
IT WAS A FEAST.
ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR MEAL?

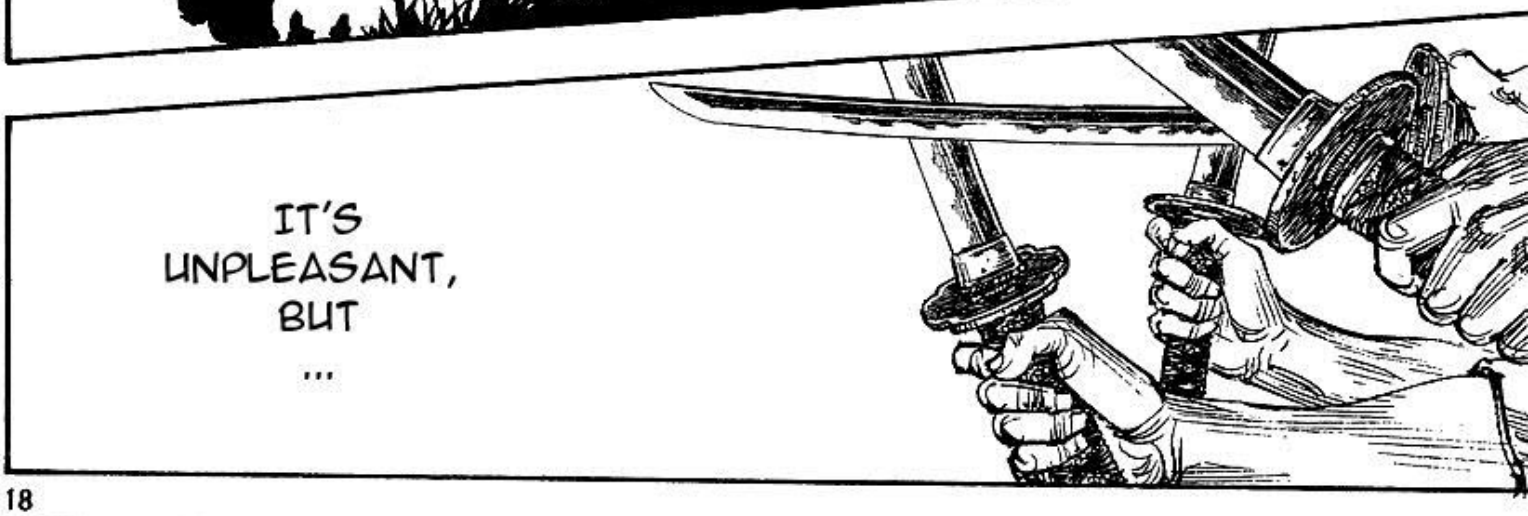
AH, THE ONE-ARMED SWORDS-MAN.
WHO WAS "OOTAGURO OF THE YOSHIOKA?"
YESTERDAY, WHEN I WAS TALKING TO THE SHOSHIDAE ...

!
SAYING STUFF LIKE, "I WILL KILL MUSASHI" ...
HE HAD LOST ONE ARM AND SEEMED PRETTY CLOSE TO DEATH... HE LOOKED UNSTEADY ON HIS FEET, AND WAS YELLING A LOT, TOO.
HE WAS ARRESTED SAFELY.
HE CAME IN SUCH A CONDITION,
?

ISN'T IT TIME TO WALK DOWN ANOTHER PATH, MUSASHI?
FOR EXAMPLE, TOGETHER WITH OTSUU ...

IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE ...
MONK— TAKUAN ...
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE ...

EVEN IF I COULD BE TOGETHER WITH OTSUU,
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE?


IT'S UNPLEASANT, BUT
...

IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE FOR THAT.

THERE IS A PLACE FOR ME TO GO BACK TO,
A PLACE FOR ME TO GO BACK TO.

IT WAS THERE ALL ALONG ...
ALL ALONG.
RIGHT THERE,

LORD MUSASHI,
TONIGHT, WOULD YOU PLEASE COME TO OUR DOJO?
PLEASE, BY ALL MEANS, I INSIST.

LORD MIYAMOTO MUSASHI, UNRIVALED UNDER HEAVEN,
EVERYONE WANTS YOU TO COME.

I WANT TO GO BACK ...
『バガボンド』#269は次号第18号に登場！

IT WAS THERE, ALL ALONG ...

A PLACE FOR ME TO GO BACK TO ...

バガボンド

IN THAT PLACE ...

JUST LIKE BACK THEN.

1

FOR THE BODY AND MIND, THE MIDDLE PATH
IS NEITHER TOO LOOSE NOR TOO TENSE, BUT ...
THE BODY IS A COUNTLESS NUMBER OF THINGS, CONTAINED INSIDE ONE.
I WANT TO GO BACK.

WHAT IS IT...?
WITH ALL OF THOSE COUNTLESS THINGS, IT IS ONE.

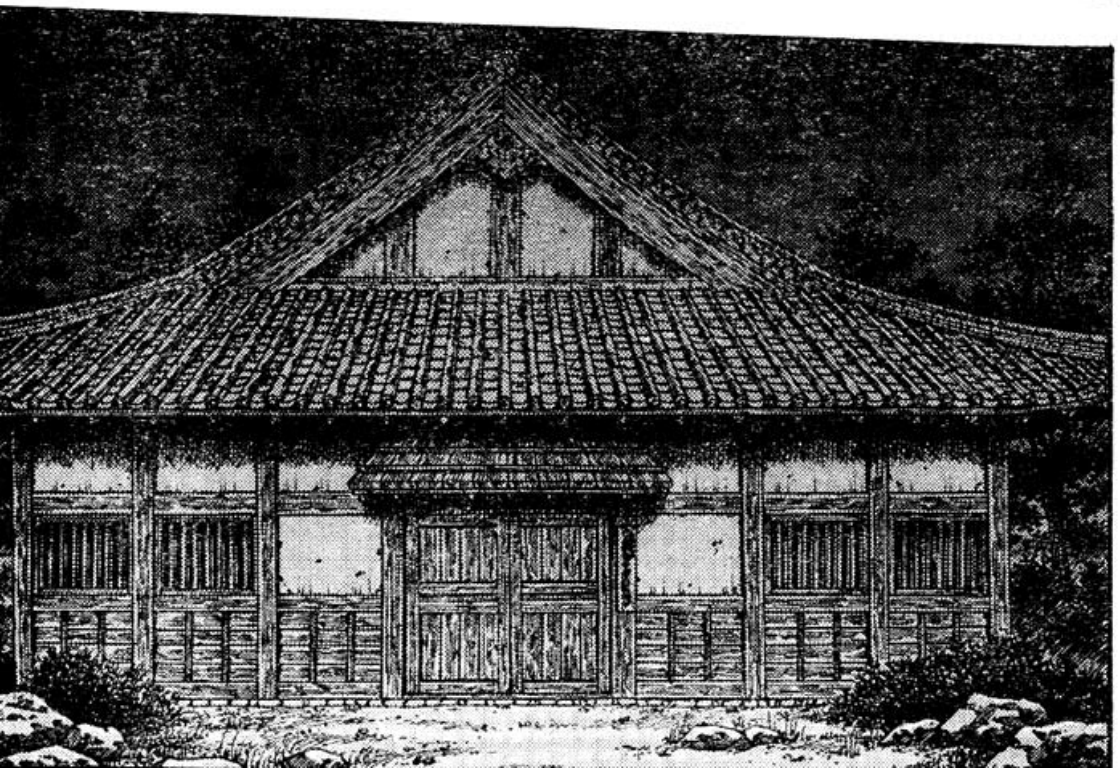
IS THIS THING ... "HAPPI-NESS"?

……!!

HE'S YOUNG …
SUCH YOUTH …

OOH, THAT'S …
THE JAILOR BROUGHT HIM …

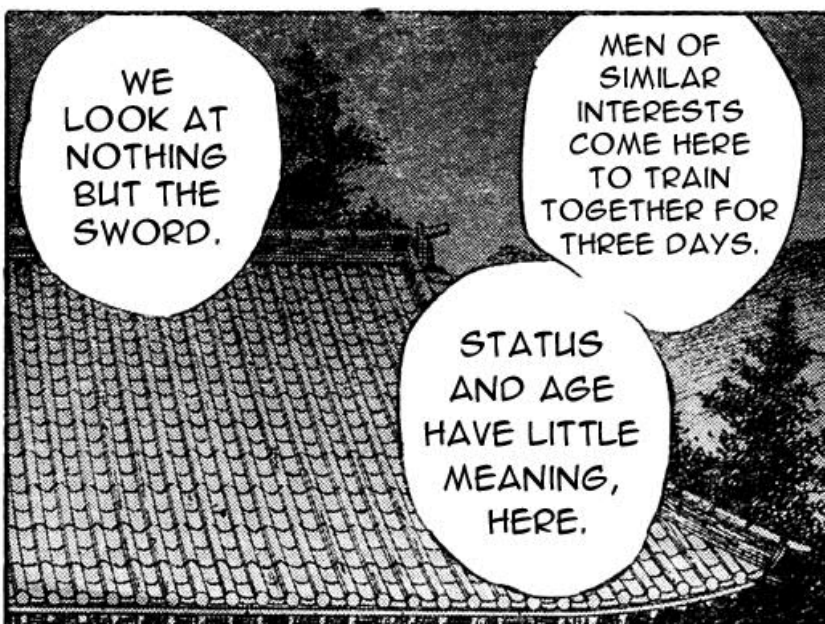
……
THIS IS …
EVERYONE, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY GUEST!

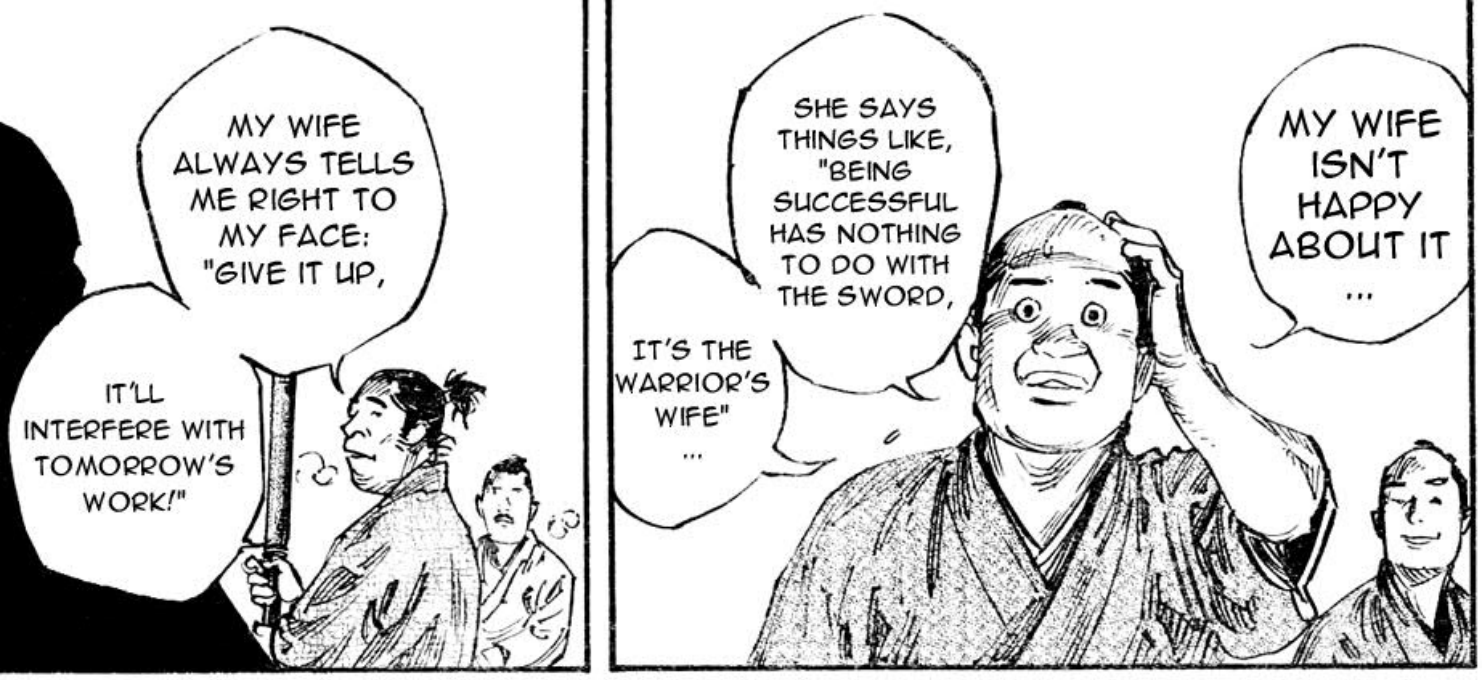


COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW DO YOU SAY YOUR NAME?

IT'S NOT VERY SPECIAL ...
AH... I AM THE ROUNIN MIYAMOTO MUSASHI OF SAKUSHU.
……
バチ
バガボンド
VAGABOND
原作：吉川英治「宮本武蔵」より
#269 LIGHT
井上雄彦
特報！ 最新刊第30巻、5月28日（木）発売決定！
「井上雄彦 最後のマンガ展 重版〈熊本版〉」は熊本市現代美術館（熊本県）にて、4/11（土）スタート！
鑑賞チケット＆特集ムック「井上雄彦びあ」は、絶賛発売中!!! 詳細は http://www.flow-er.co.jp/ へ!!

*T/N: MEANS SOMETHING LIKE "BAG BAMBOO BLADE".

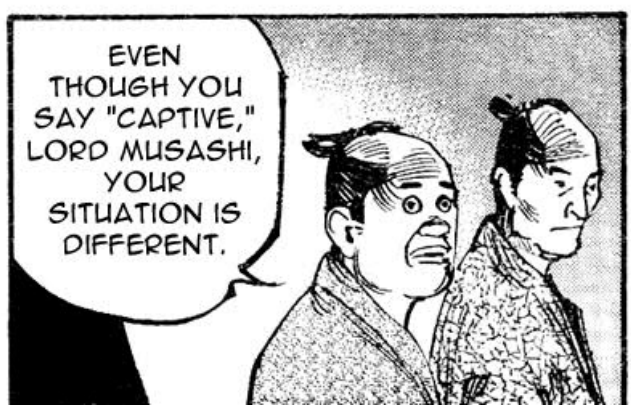



MY WIFE ALWAYS TELLS ME RIGHT TO MY FACE: "GIVE IT UP,
IT'LL INTERFERE WITH TOMORROW'S WORK!"
SHE SAYS THINGS LIKE, "BEING SUCCESSFUL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SWORD,
IT'S THE WARRIOR'S WIFE" ...
MY WIFE ISN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT ...

A BUDDHIST PRIEST LEAVING AT NIGHT, AND COMING BACK ALL BRUISED-UP!
I THINK THAT'S ME, TOO!
A MONK SWINGING THE BLADE, WHAT'S WITH THAT?
I'M ALWAYS TREATED LIKE A COMPLETE ODDBALL;

I THINK THAT ITAKURA-SAMA WANTS YOU TO KEEP LIVING.
WE'RE ALSO THE SAME--
THOUGH IT'S IMPOLITE, TO COMPARE MYSELF TO LORD MUSASHI...

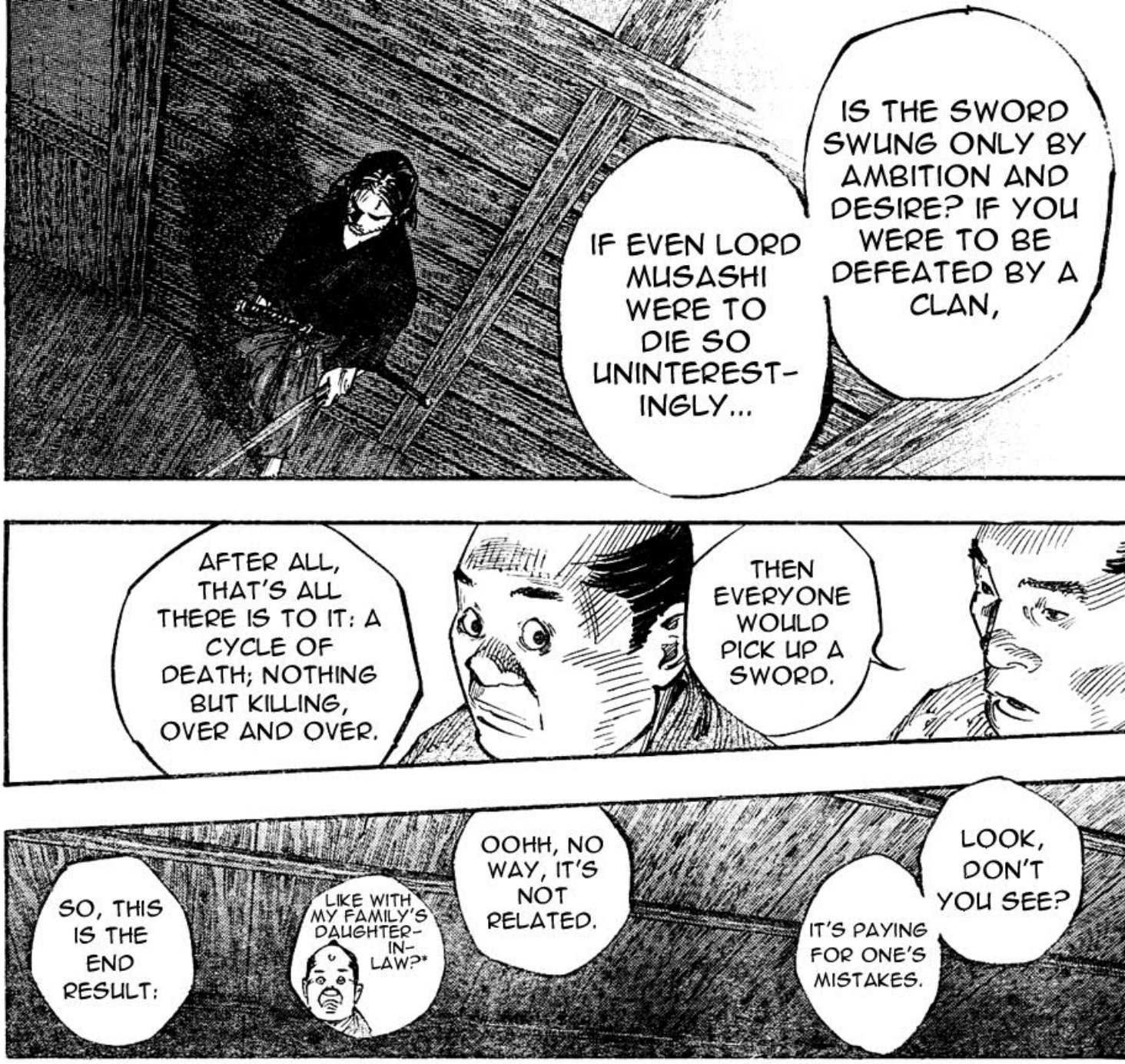
IS IT ALL RIGHT? I'M A CAPTIVE, AFTER ALL ...


EVEN THOUGH YOU SAY "CAPTIVE," LORD MUSASHI, YOUR SITUATION IS DIFFERENT.

I JUST DON'T WANT HIM TO HAVE AN UNINTERESTING DEATH.

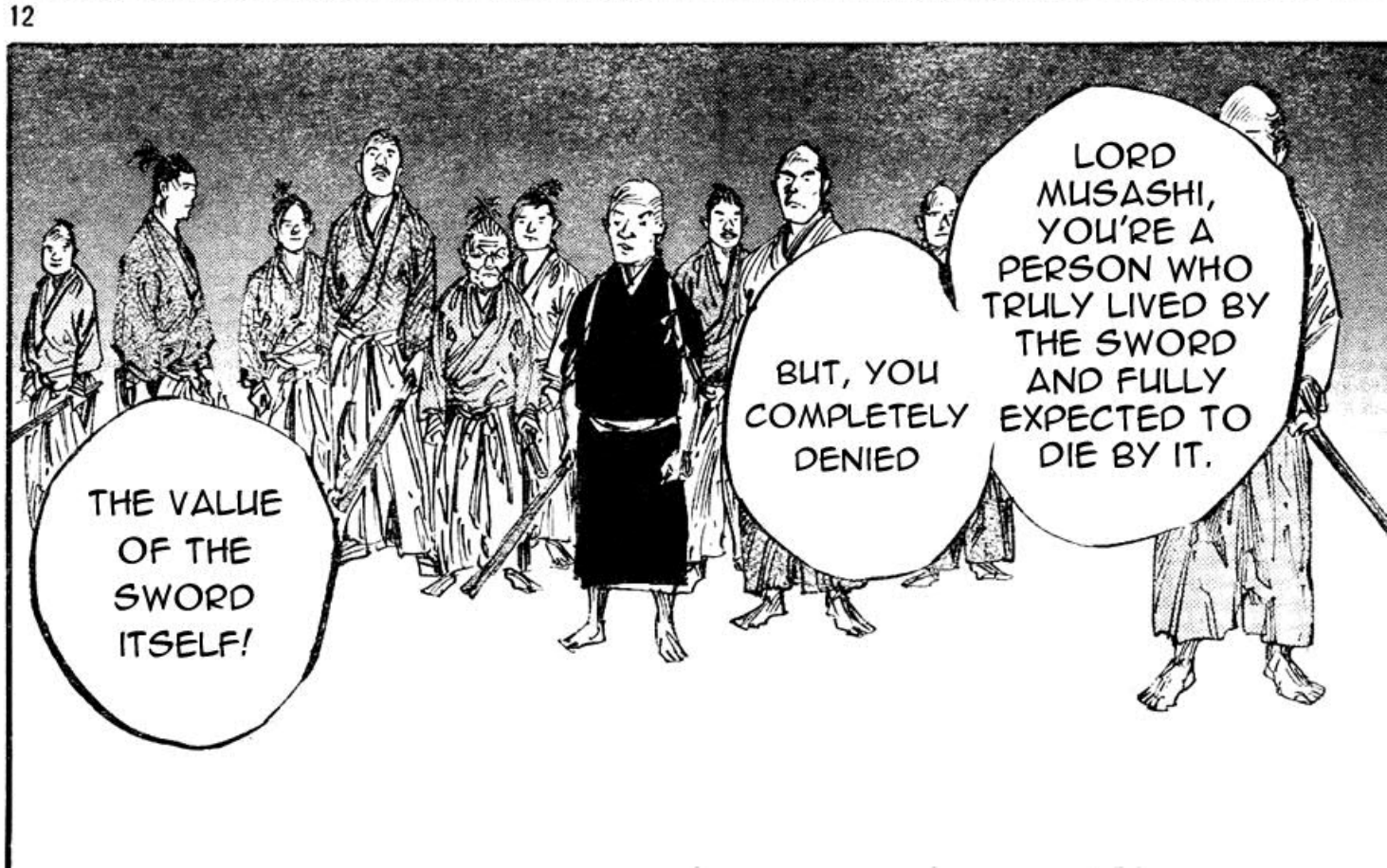
AND WE WANTED US TO LIVE, NOT THE ENEMY.
WE, THE YOSHIOKA CLAN, WANTED TO KILL SO MUCH...

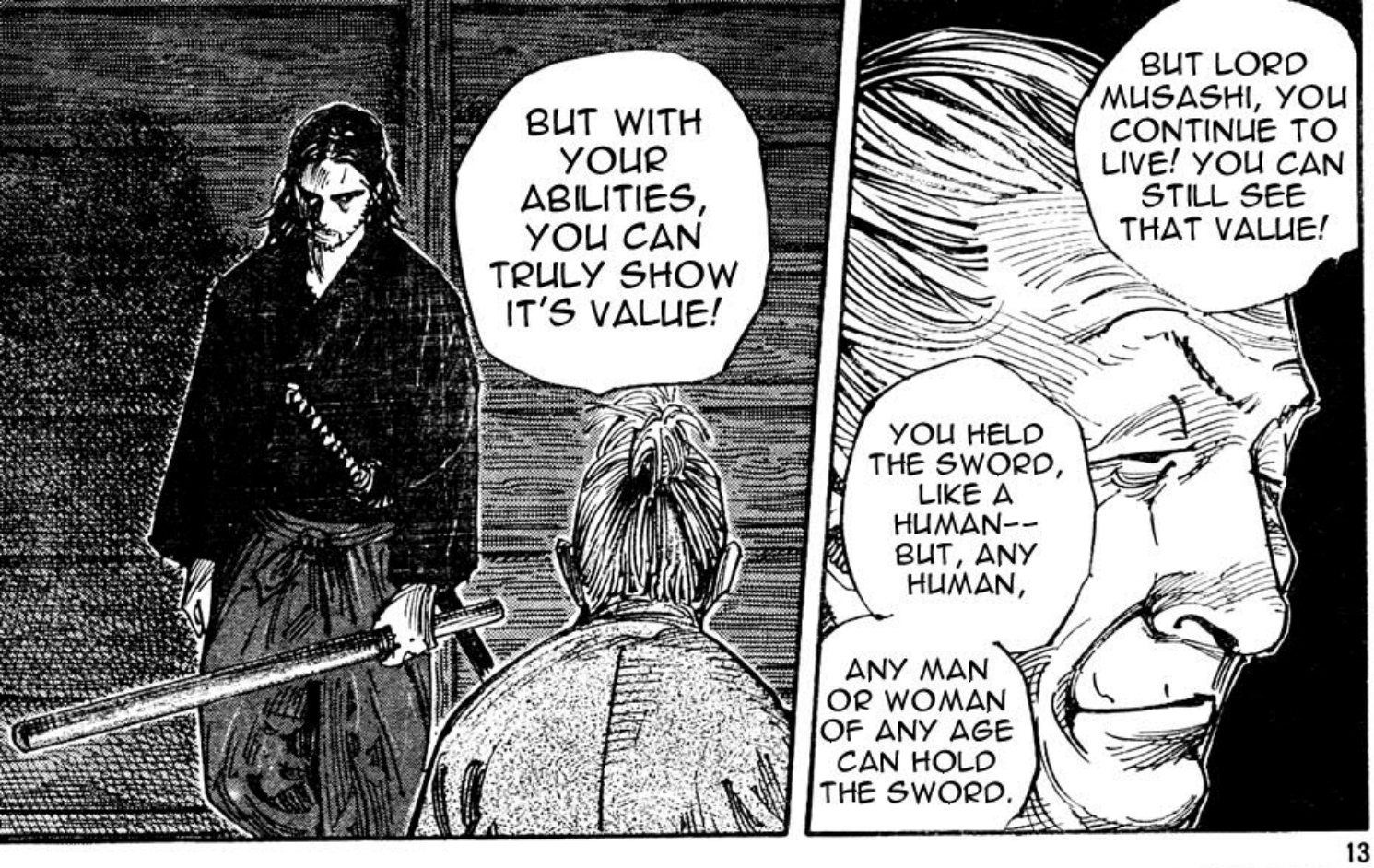
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THAT GUY, AS HE IS, TO STAY IN A SILENT PRISON.
COME NOW.
BUT YOU WERE KILLED, SO WHY...?
AND JUST NOW, HE'S ALREADY LEFT THAT PLACE ...
I'VE HEARD THE RUMOR... IT KEEPS SPREADING.
SO LONG AS IT'S OUT OF CONTROL, THE YOSHIOKA CAN'T FORGIVE HIM.
LEAVE THE FINAL THRUST FOR ME.

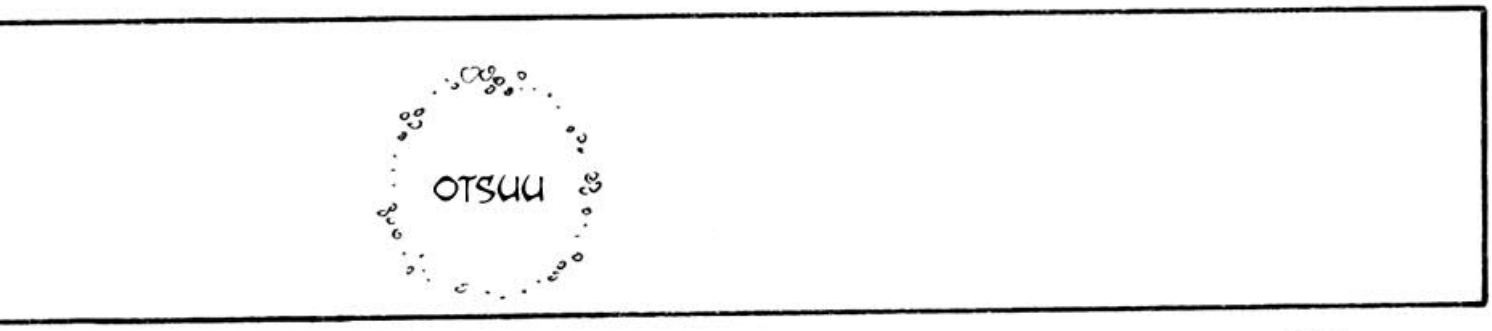

IS THE SWORD SWUNG ONLY BY AMBITION AND DESIRE? IF YOU WERE TO BE DEFEATED BY A CLAN,
IF EVEN LORD MUSASHI WERE TO DIE SO UNINTEREST-INGLY...

AFTER ALL, THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT: A CYCLE OF DEATH; NOTHING BUT KILLING, OVER AND OVER.
THEN EVERYONE WOULD PICK UP A SWORD.

SO, THIS IS THE END RESULT:
LIKE WITH MY FAMILY'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW?*
OOHH, NO WAY, IT'S NOT RELATED.
IT'S PAYING FOR ONE'S MISTAKES.
LOOK, DON'T YOU SEE?


THE VALUE OF THE SWORD ITSELF!
BUT, YOU COMPLETELY DENIED
LORD MUSASHI, YOU'RE A PERSON WHO TRULY LIVED BY THE SWORD AND FULLY EXPECTED TO DIE BY IT.

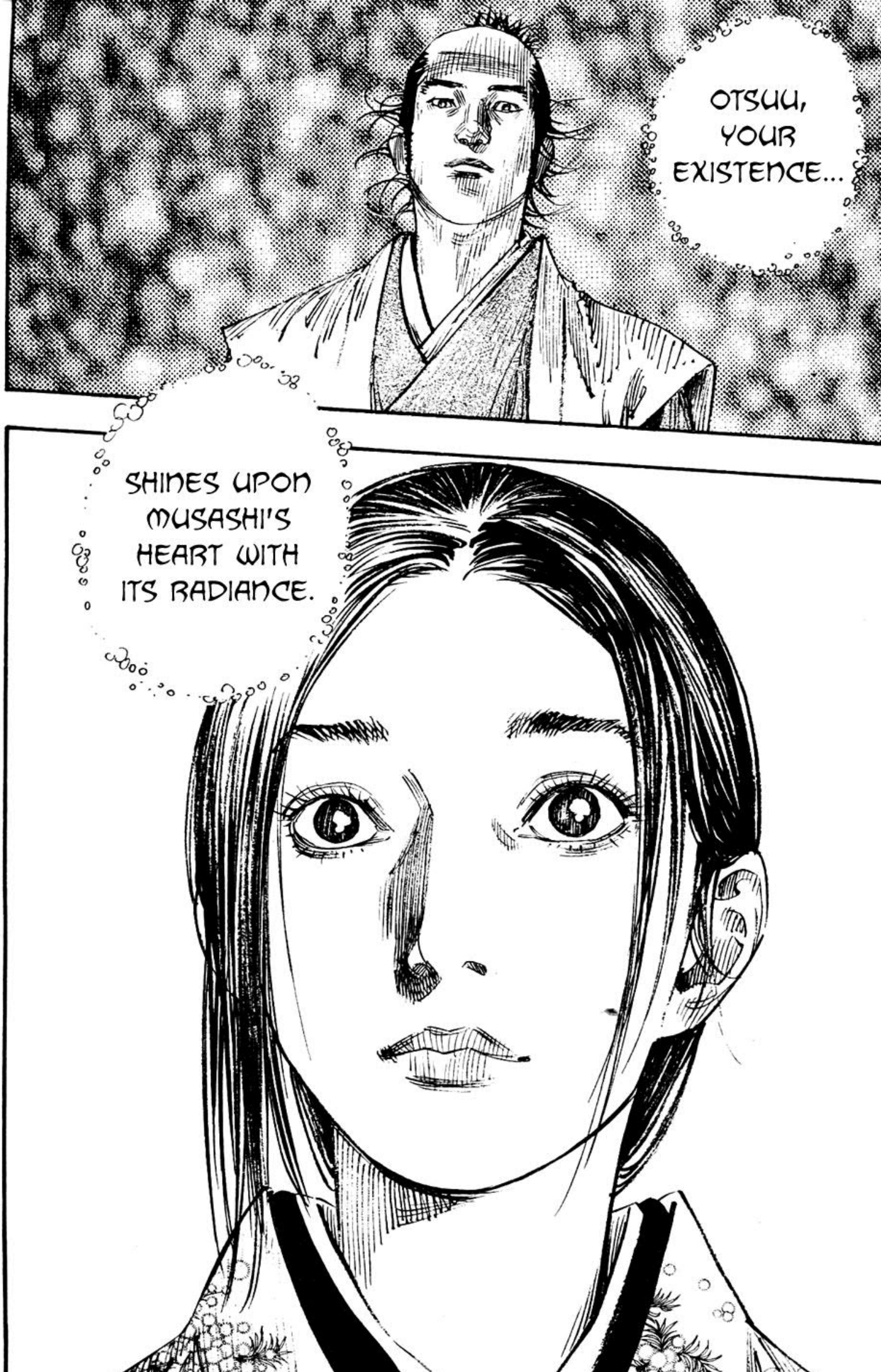

BUT WITH YOUR ABILITIES, YOU CAN TRULY SHOW IT'S VALUE!
BUT LORD MUSASHI, YOU CONTINUE TO LIVE! YOU CAN STILL SEE THAT VALUE!
YOU HELD THE SWORD, LIKE A HUMAN-- BUT, ANY HUMAN,
ANY MAN OR WOMAN OF ANY AGE CAN HOLD THE SWORD.


OTSUU

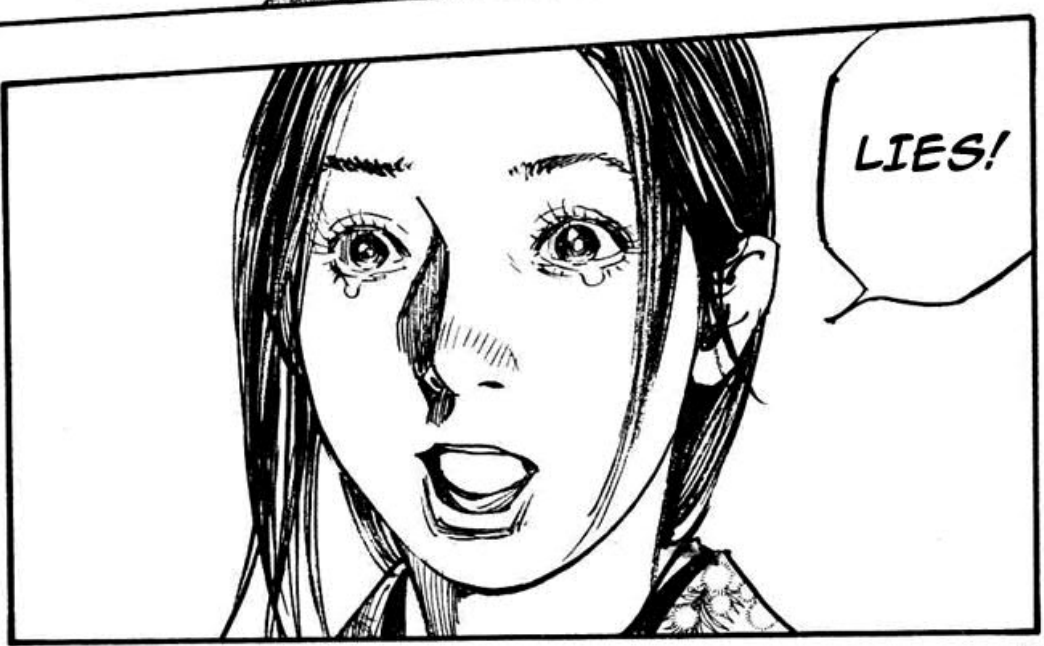
GUIDE HIM TO THE LIGHT.
WHAT CAN I DO?
WHY ME ....!?
PLEASE GUIDE MUSASHI.

WILL I REALLY BE ABLE TO TELL HIM MYSELF?
MUSASHI HAS ALREADY FOUGHT ENOUGH.
ALREADY, IT'S TOO MUCH.
YOU'LL HAVE TO.
HOW!?

!


OTSUU, YOUR EXISTENCE...
SHINES UPON MUSASHI'S HEART WITH ITS RADIANCE.

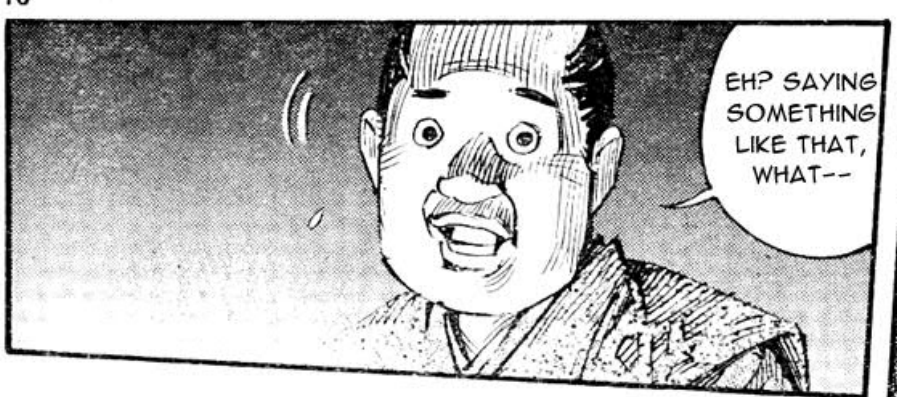
THE PLACE FOR MUSASHI TO RETURN IS TO YOU AND THE SWORD.
THE WOMAN CALLED OTSUU SHALL ILLUMINATE THE FUTURE. THAT IS YOUR LIGHT.


LIES!

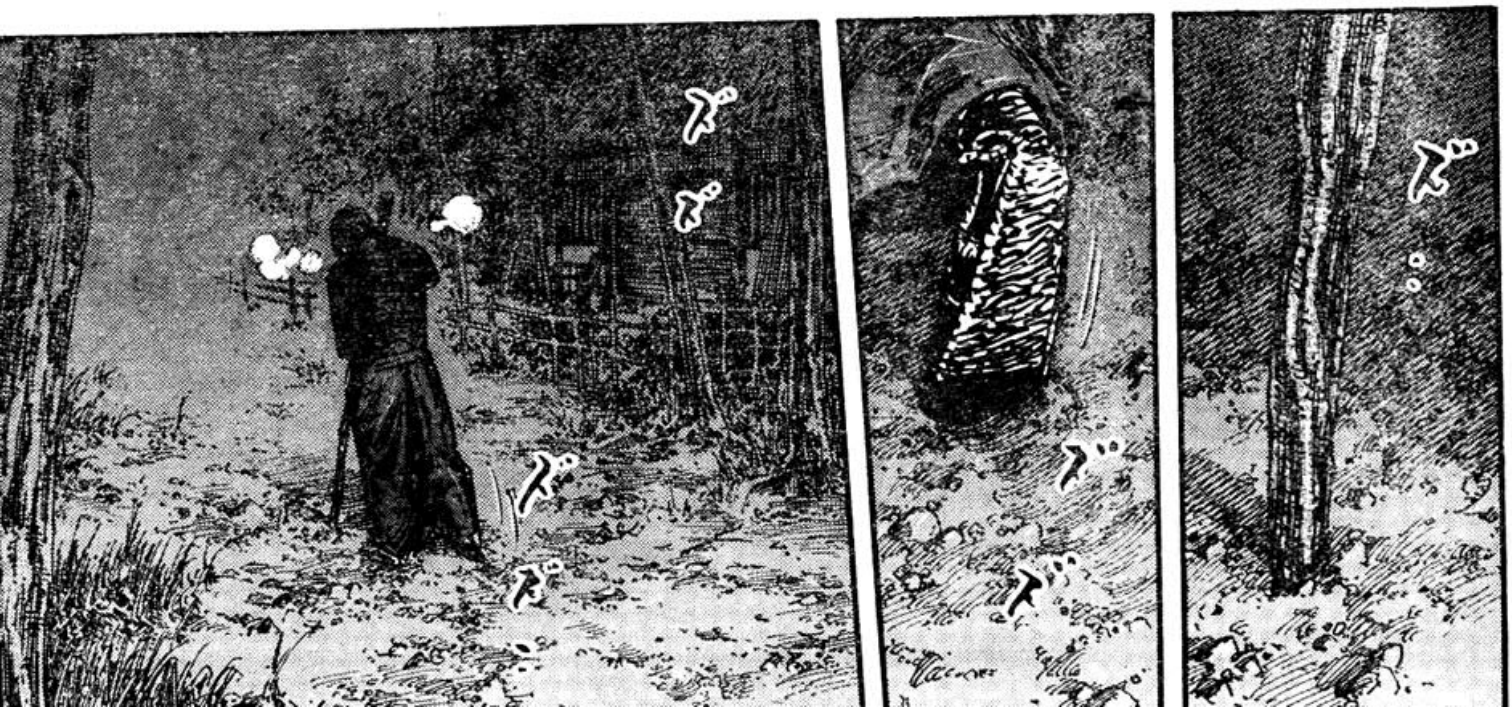
WHEN YOU DIE, CERTAIN THINGS BECOME CLEARER.
I TOLD YOU,

EH?
YOU GUYS ARE KIND PEOPLE.

YOU ARE STRONG PEOPLE.


EH? SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT, WHAT--

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



I CAME THIS FAR, AND THIS LEG... SHIT.
IT SEEMED THAT I COULD GRASP IT,
THOUGH MY GRIP IS STILL LACKING.
SO THAT I COULD COME THIS FAR.
I ATTACKED ALL OF YOU. YOU WERE MY OPPONENTS,
I HOPE FOR NOTHING EXCEPT TO REACH THAT LEVEL.
I WILL NOT CHASE THE HEAT HAZE, JUST THE HEIGHT OF SKILL.

THERE WERE OTHER OPPONENTS WHO COMPETED;

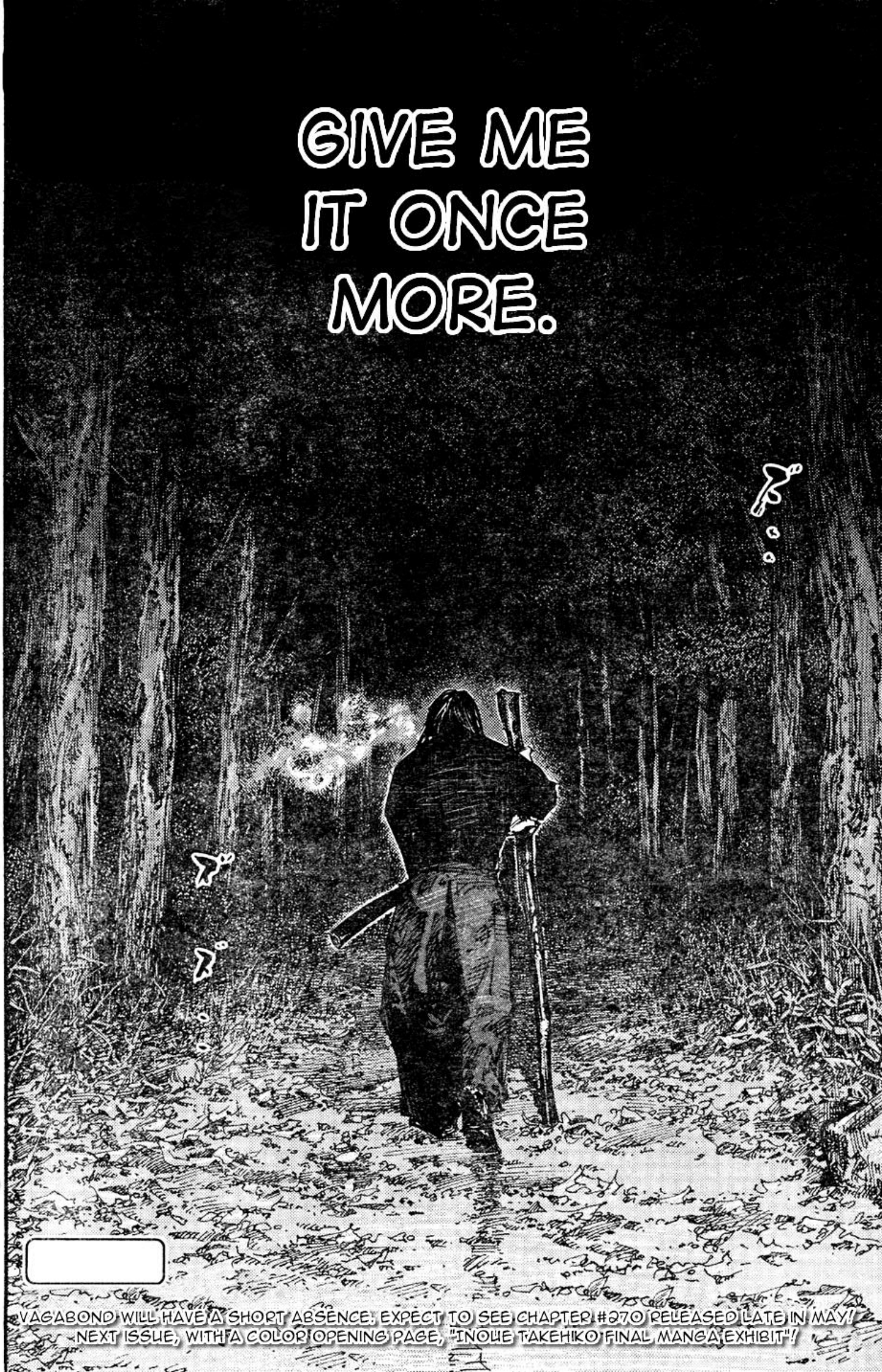
THAT SENSATION WILL NOT DISAPPEAR, AS I ADVANCE.

I WAS NOT BY MSELF.

GIVING AND TAKING LIFE ... ONCE MORE,

GOD IN HEAVEN!

I THREW OUT MY LIFE AND WENT AMONG ENEMIES WHO HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ATTACK ME!



VAGABOND WILL HAVE A SHORT ABSENCE. EXPECT TO SEE CHAPTER #270 RELEASED LATE IN MAY!
-NEXT ISSUE, WITH A COLOR OPENING PAGE, "INOUE TAKEHIKO FINAL MANGA EXHIBIT"!

Fp: Facebook.com/meganebuk